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2010 PREVIEW

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JOB:
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CLIMBING**

**CARDINALS:
IT'S STRONG'S
SHOW NOW**

**NEW COACHES
AT POWER
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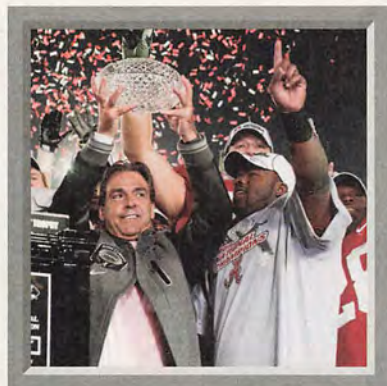
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do than play basketball is hunt.

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enjoying the great outdoors
with my friends and family.

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Wayne LaPierre, NRA Executive Vice President





CHANGES AT THE TOP 16

Coaching landscape stays in a constant state of flux.



SULTANS OF SUFFERING 22

Many teams have waited decades to win a conference title.



NATIONAL UNIT RATINGS 40

Top contenders boast the best units in their quest for the title.

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Letter from the Publisher

Change is in the air in college football. New coaches arrive at traditional powers USC, Notre Dame, Tennessee and Florida State. Our senior college football writer, Dennis Dodd, takes a look at the changing landscape beginning on page 16.

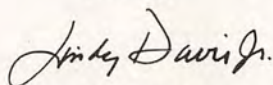
Can any of these new coaches bring a national championship to their respective schools in three years as Nick Saban did at Alabama? Can Saban and Alabama repeat as national champions? *Lindy's* editors rate all the contenders (and pretenders) beginning on page 6.

This makes the 29th year that *Lindy's* has published college football magazines. We started with a Southeastern edition in 1982. A player named Herschel won the Heisman and a coach nicknamed "Bear" was in his last year.

I want to thank all of the fans who have made *Lindy's* a success over all these years. I would also like to thank my wonderful staff and outstanding group of editors for their dedication to the success of *Lindy's*.

Have a great season. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

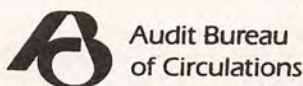
Sincerely,



Lindy Davis

D.M.D. Publications, Inc.
2100 Centennial Drive, Suite 100
Birmingham AL 35216
P: 205-871-1182 • F: 205-871-1184
E-mail: lindy@lindyssports.com
www.lindyssports.com

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Publisher
J. Lindy Davis, Jr.

Senior Editor
Anthony Gimino

Associate Editors
Don Borst, Shawn O'Neal

Production Manager
Norbert Feliciano

Creative
Tracey Fagan, Norbert Feliciano
Ginny O'Neill, Tim Williams

Photo Editor
R.D. Moore

Editorial/Production Assistants
Natalie Chambliss, Ben Cook, Grace Gloss,
John Krusinski, Matt Lowe, Deb Naramore,
Carol Reece, Kathy Rombough, Lyn Scarbrough

Advertising/Marketing
Shack Brown • Detroit
248-709-3460

Lyn Scarbrough • Birmingham
205-437-9483

Newsstand
Ralph Perricelli
John Willett
Philip Willett

Office Manager
Kathy Rombough

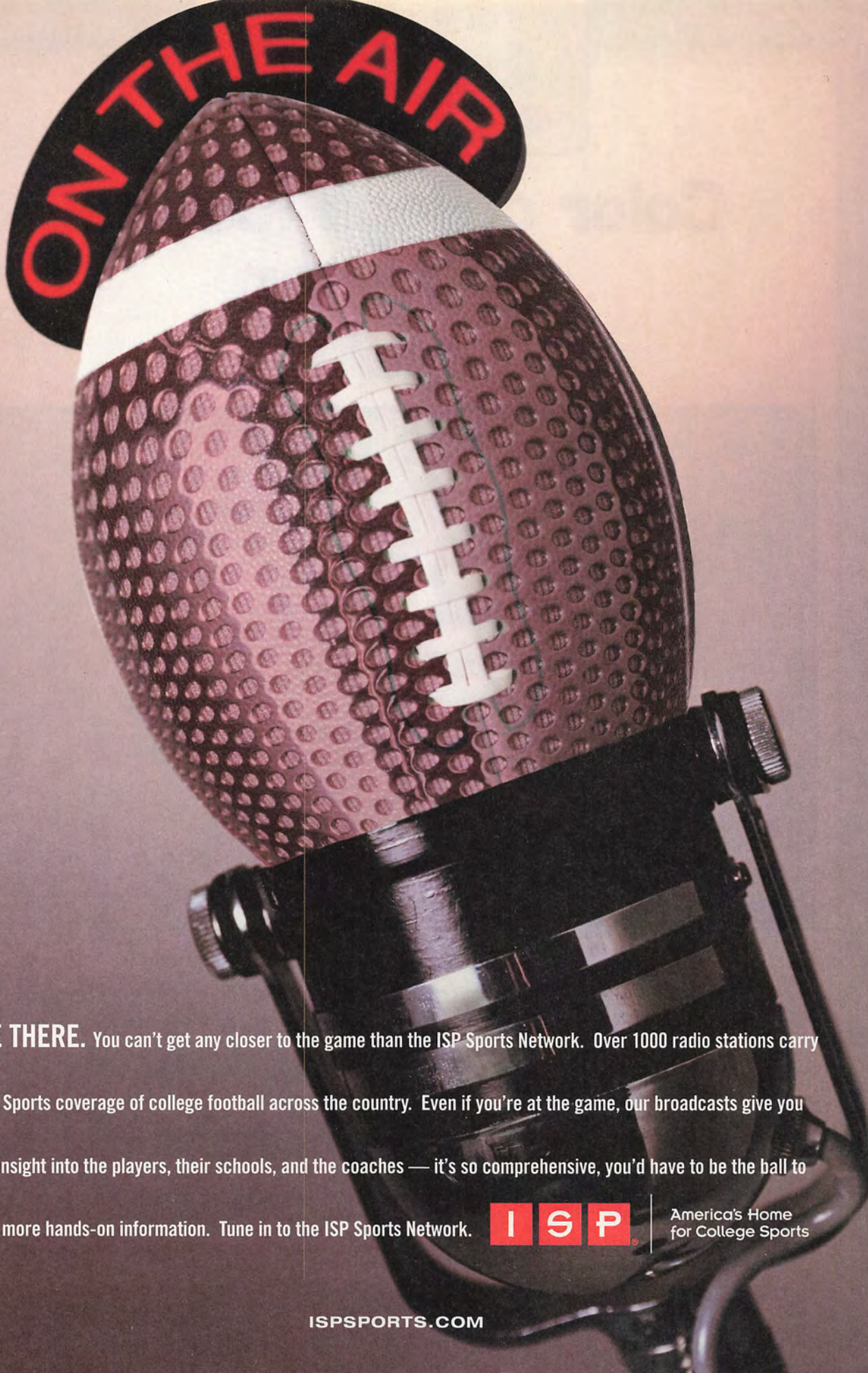
Orders/Shipping
Grace Gloss

Accounting
Barry Jacobs • Paige Tanner • Agenda Davis

Contributing Writers
Nate Allen, Paul Amett, Nick Baumgardner, Mike Beacom, John Blanchette, David Bocclair, Paul Borden, David Brandt, Rusty Burson, Guerry Clegg, Bob Condotta, Steve Conroy, Ben Cook, Chip Cosby, Chadd Cripe, Ken Cross, Bucky Dent, Dominick DiRienzo, Michael DiRocco, Dennis Dodd, Jon Gold, Geoff Grammer, Tim Griffin, Craig Handel, Travis Haney, Derek Harper, John Heuser, John Hoover, Donald Hunt, Jimmy Hyams, Sal Interdonato, Tom Keegan, Cliff Kirkpatrick, Bill Koch, Tony Krausz, Tom Kubat, Eddy Landreth, Jason Lloyd, Matt Lowe, Mike Lucas, Tom Luicci, Dave Matter, Natalie Meisler, Matt Miller, Dave Moormann, Marc Morehouse, Tony Moss, Tammy Nunez, Jeffrey Parson, Eric Peterson, Steve Pivovar, Jerry Ratcliffe, Jeff Reynolds, Kyle Ringo, Michael Rothstein, Lyn Scarbrough, Rich Scarcella, Chip Scoggins, Steve Silverman, Jeff Smith, James Staley, Bryan Strickland, Phil Stukenborg, Jake Trotter, Adam Van Brimmer, Kyle Veazey, Bill Vilonia, Bill Wagner, Aaron Wasser, John Werner, Larry Williams, Jon Wilner, Scott Wolf, Kent Youngblood, Paul Zeise

Contributing Photographers
Steve Beyer, Scott Boehm, Tomasso DeRosa, Frank DiBrango, Dennis Hubbard, Doug Holleman, Ron Kovach, Kirby Lee, Michael A. Marti, R.D. Moore, John Pyle, Joe Robbins, Bruce Schwartzman, Dave Sizer, Todd Van Ernst, John Williamson

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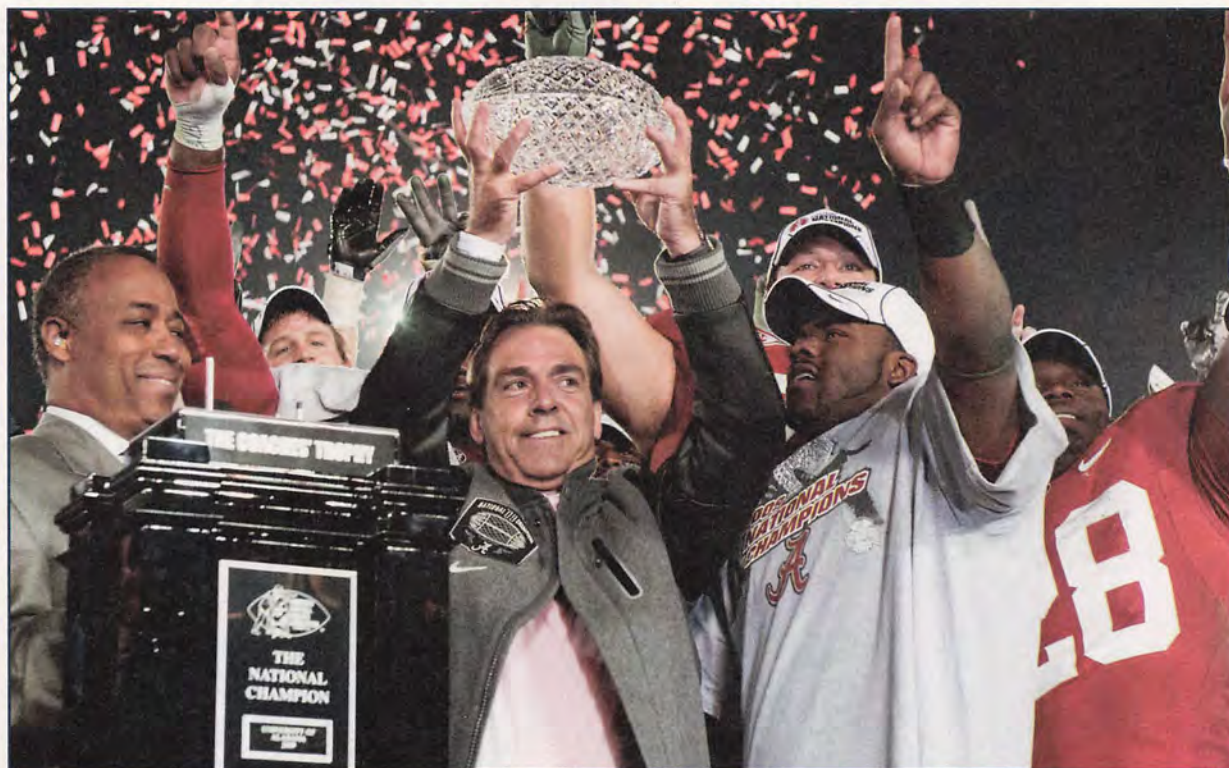


Photo by R.D. Moore

1. ALABAMA



There might be no stopping Nick Saban now. He resurrected the Crimson Tide after only three seasons. His recruiting has been the best in the nation, and it's not like he's leaving any time soon. He's done the NFL thing already. There's not a better college job. So this sure looks like a long-haul

thing and everybody else just better get used to a crimson-tinged college football world.

OK, so what about this year? It's not often that we would pick a team with a scant two returning starters on defense as the preseason No. 1. Point is, the Tide can afford a little drop-off from the nation's second-ranked defense and still be national-championship worthy. Unless Saban's recruiting was a fluke, the guys coming in as starters this season probably have more collective talent than the guys who left. You just might not know their names yet.

THE GOOD NEWS: The offense can do the heavy lifting, if needed.

QB Greg McElroy, who doesn't know what losing feels like, will manage the game just fine and pick his spots to hit Julio Jones and speedy Marquis Maze. Heisman winner Mark Ingram and Trent Richardson will run wild. And the big regular-season game — vs. Florida — is in Tuscaloosa.

THE BAD NEWS: The loss of junior safety Robby Green, a part-time starter last year who is ineligible for this season, is a significant blow to a rebuilding secondary. Defenders such as end Marcell Dareus, a potential star, will have to thrive in new full-time roles. The Tide will have to be road-tough, playing at Arkansas, South Carolina, Tennessee and LSU.

OUR CALL: Alabama isn't a perfect team, but there aren't a lot of contenders this year pounding on the door, demanding to be No. 1. By virtue of the 2009 national championship, a tough schedule and its lofty preseason ranking, the Tide could suffer a loss in the regular season and still play for the national title.



2. BOISE STATE

Stars have aligned for ultimate BCS buster

This is it. Boise State loses only two starters from an undefeated team. For a change, the Broncos start with respect, rather than picking it up week by week, win by win. No outsider has ever been in better position to bust the BCS and reach the national title game. Look around. Other than Alabama, which of those projected conference champs do you really think can run the table? None. A 12-0 Boise State — which means wins over Virginia Tech and Oregon State in September — gets to Glendale.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Kellen Moore is ultra-accurate with a big arm, as that 39-3 touchdown-to-interception ratio of last season attests. He has All-WAC receivers Austin Pettis and Titus Young at his disposal and a 26-1 record as the starter.

THE BAD NEWS: A loss to Virginia Tech on Labor Day would be like sticking a needle in the hype balloon, and all this preseason build-up will have been for naught. One of the few starters no longer around for Boise State is first-round cornerback Kyle Wilson.

OUR CALL: Critics will say the Broncos wouldn't be ranked No. 2 if they played in the SEC. Well, they don't. Deal with it. They have the right combination of skill and schedule to take the final step — and play for it all.



3. OHIO STATE

Reaching for unbridled Pryor success

Jim Tressel is 36-4 in the Big Ten in the past five seasons, so you might be getting tired of all this winning from the Buckeyes ... unless you happen to love the Scarlet and Gray, of course. If not, don't wince when we project a league-record sixth straight Big Ten championship to be tucked tidily in Tressel's vest pocket. It's a safe bet Ohio State will be in the Bowl Championship Series for the eighth time in nine years.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Terrelle Pryor was unleashed in the Rose Bowl, having his Vince Young moment. If Tressel turns him loose some more, we'll buy any forecasts that project an offense that will be more explosive than Ohio State's Troy Smith-led version of 2006.

THE BAD NEWS: Tressel's defense skews young, especially in the secondary, and there might be not a shut-down pass defender as there usually is. It will be a hard slog through Big Ten road games against Wisconsin and Iowa.

OUR CALL: There are reasonable doubts, but this should be the year that Pryor puts it all together — at least most of the time — and leads the Buckeyes through a season when all things seem possible.



4. TEXAS

Continuing a habit of rolling 11s

Texas has averaged more than 11 victories a year for the past nine seasons, so Mack Brown has been through a few major transitions and come out just fine without the help of a four-leaf clover taped to a rabbit's foot. He has players at the ready to take over for departed stars ... and, yeah, we're talking about Garrett Gilbert in place of Colt McCoy. Brown's comment on Gilbert at the end of the spring game: "The team trusts him."

THE GOOD NEWS: The secondary again is a strength, even with Earl Thomas off to the NFL. Cornerbacks Curtis Brown, Chykie Brown and Aaron Williams are NFL prospects, and Blake Gideon is a third-year starter at safety. UT's recruiting efforts never sleep.

THE BAD NEWS: With Gilbert directly under center, the Horns will focus more on running out of two-back sets, but can somebody break out of the committee? Texas has to go all in with Gilbert because a backup quarterback didn't emerge in the spring.

OUR CALL: The Longhorns' prime challengers in the Big 12 South all have something UT doesn't — some sort of quarterback experience. Meanwhile, Nebraska is salivating in the North. Texas will find a way to hold on by the slimmest of margins.



5. FLORIDA

Very big teeth even without Tebow

Now, it's the NFL types who get to talk about Tim Tebow every day while Florida moves on in the relative quiet wake of new starter John Brantley. He has the bigger arm but he doesn't have the wheels or the rah-rah attitude ... and none of that stuff will matter if he can just win like a real quarterback. Urban Meyer will adjust, and the Gators have recruited so well for so long that all the big prizes are still in reach.

THE GOOD NEWS: RB Jeff Demps runs on rocket fuel, and a veteran line will create plenty of holes to launch him through. There is still plenty of speed on defense, and a secondary that includes Janoris Jenkins, Ahmad Black and Will Hill is one of the best.

THE BAD NEWS: The pass-rush won't sizzle after the loss of ends Carlos Dunlap and Jermaine Cunningham. It would be nice to head into the season with more than just Deonte Thompson as a proven pass-catcher.

OUR CALL: It's Florida now playing catch-up to Alabama in the SEC and in the nation. The Tide appears to block the path to the BCS title game this season ... but would another SEC East title be OK?



6. WISCONSIN

Veteran lineup eyes BCS appearance

Expectations have returned to Madison mostly because Wisconsin returns 16 starters, plus both specialists, from last year's unexpected 10-win team. That includes 10 veterans from the Big Ten's most productive offense, so the Badgers will continue to chug-chug-chug along. Wisconsin's defense should be a solid, meat-and-potatoes bunch, even though its most decorated players — such as All-Big Ten defensive end O'Brien Schofield — are gone.

THE GOOD NEWS: Running back John Clay bulled his way to 1,517 rushing yards last season, and the Badgers have some changes of pace in reserve. The Badgers didn't show any lack of speed in beating Miami 20-14 in last season's Champs Sports Bowl.

THE BAD NEWS: The Badgers scored only 23 total points in losses to Ohio State and Iowa last season, so there is work to be done against strong defensive fronts. The secondary is a bit shaky, and there's a new starting free safety as the last line of defense.

OUR CALL: QB Scott Tolzien will take a step past his steer-and-guide role with the chance to be a difference-maker. This could be Bret Bielema's best team, one that will be right there in the hunt for a BCS berth.



7. TCU

Another big bowl trip in the offing?

TCU was in double-digit victories seven times in the past decade ... and this won't be one of the "off" years. Coach Gary Patterson, even with the loss of DE Jerry Hughes, LB Daryl Washington and two talented corners, can dominate the Mountain West with a speed-first defense that almost always has healthy amounts of turnovers and sacks. TCU's offensive firepower, meanwhile, will be unrivaled in league play. Nine starters are back from a unit that averaged 38.3 points.

THE GOOD NEWS: Much of the core of the 2009 team that finished 12-1 is back, including record-setting QB Andy Dalton. TCU has an impressive stable of running backs and is always able to downshift to more of a ball-control approach when needed.

THE BAD NEWS: Lott Trophy candidate Tejay Johnson is a fine safety and LB Tank Carder might hit 100 tackles, but TCU's subtracted star power might show up against early non-conference opponents Oregon State and Baylor, both of which have offensive stars.

OUR CALL: Ten wins seems like a given. More? Certainly possible. A BCS run can't be ruled out, but it's only going to take one stumble for the Horned Frogs to be relegated to outsider status.



8. VIRGINIA TECH

Making a point (or 30) in Blacksburg

Things are a bit backward in Blacksburg. And by that, we mean that the Hokies have this revved-up offense, with two super tailbacks, big-play receivers and create-on-his-own quarterback Tyrod Taylor. The best offense in coach Frank Beamer's 24 seasons? Probably not (Michael Vick's teams say "hello"), but it could be darn close. Meanwhile, the program's traditional strengths — defense and special teams — are in flux and somewhat vulnerable. Backward, indeed.

GOOD NEWS: The Hokies have a collection of explosive talent, including tailbacks Ryan Williams and Darren Evans, perhaps the best duo in the country (although Alabama would argue). The defense might have growing pains, but it is as fast as ever. Perhaps even faster.

BAD NEWS: Tech is replacing the left side of its offensive line, which lost guard Sergio Renter and tackle Ed Wang, who were both second-team All-ACC. The defense, which lost six starters, gets no time to warm up with an opener against Boise State and QB Kellen Moore.

OUR CALL: Tech is an instant BCS contender if it can beat Boise State, but we're going with the Broncos there. Tech's tougher ACC games come late in the season, when the defense might have its adult teeth.



9. OKLAHOMA

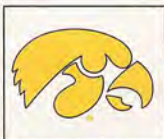
Healthy Sooners are, most assuredly, nasty Sooners

Last season was an injury-swept disaster ... and the Sooners still shut out Oklahoma State and turned back a hard-nosed Stanford team in the Sun Bowl to end the season. And four of Oklahoma's five losses were by a total of 12 points, meaning it will simply take a little better health for the Sooners to find their rightful level once again. From 2000 through 2008, OU only once finished worse than No. 11 in the final Associated Press rankings.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Sooners will benefit from all those young players — like QB Landry Jones — who were forced into playing time last season. WR Ryan Broyles and RB DeMarco Murray are dynamic talents. Same thing for DE Jeremy Beal and LB Travis Lewis on defense.

THE BAD NEWS: There are still issues with the big guys up front that threaten to derail the offense. So, too, could a schedule that includes Florida State, Cincinnati and Texas among the first five games. OU has lost four of its last five to the Longhorns.

OUR CALL: After an eight-win season, there is nothing so fundamentally wrong with these hungry Sooners to suggest they can't get back to double digits.



10. IOWA

Finishing what they started

The Hawkeyes were fortunate last season, starting with a one-point win over Northern Iowa and continuing in narrow escapes against Arkansas State (24-21), Michigan (30-28) and Michigan State (15-13). Iowa kept stepping out of the traps, and quarterback Ricky Stanzi piloted the team to a 9-0 start before being injured in Game 10. The Hawkeyes lost that one and the next one. The simple hypothesis for 2010 would be: Keep Stanzi healthy and the Hawkeyes win.

THE GOOD NEWS: All four starters return on the defensive line, anchored by the monster on the end, Adrian Clayborn. Stanzi should have more help from the running game, and Penn State, Wisconsin, Michigan State, Ohio State all visit Iowa City.

THE BAD NEWS: Everybody will make much fuss over the fact that Iowa has three new starters on the offensive line and lacks optimum size up front. Linebackers Pat Angerer (145 tackles) and A.J. Edds (five interceptions) will be missed.

OUR CALL: Coach Kirk Ferentz fixes offensive line problems during his lunch hour, so we don't envision the front five being a fatal flaw. With help from that home schedule, Iowa can match its 2009 surprise ... as long as Stanzi stays healthy.



11. NEBRASKA

Back in black ... With a defense that's stacked

Nebraska is back, the Black Shirts are back, and the Cornhuskers are coming after you, Big 12 South. Bo Pelini's team pounded out a message at the end of last season, coming within one second of a Big 12 championship and then burying Arizona in the sand in the Holiday Bowl. Coming off its first 10-win season since 2003 and returning 18 starters, Nebraska is a stone-cold lock to win the North as it chases its first conference crown since 1999.

THE GOOD NEWS: DT Jared Crick and CB Prince Amukamara, a pair of Lindy's preseason All-Americans, are back to lead the unit that was first in scoring defense last season (10.4 points per game). The offense should be improved with more options at running back.

THE BAD NEWS: The big fella, Ndamukong Suh, isn't around to make everyone else on the defense better. At the end of spring, Nebraska was still juggling three quarterback possibilities — incumbent Zac Lee, Cody Green and Taylor Martinez.

OUR CALL: The home game against Texas on Oct. 16 should be epic, but it just might be a prelude to a rematch in December. It would surprise no one if the Huskers end up the best team in the league.



12. USC

Trojans look for bounce back

USC hasn't really been **USC!** for a couple of seasons. This team? These guys won't be **USC!** either. But what they figure to be is a team on a mission to prove that they are at least still USC (yes, even without Pete Carroll). Young Mr. Lane Kiffin, whose heart never left Los Angeles even while he dabbled in Knoxville, might be brilliant. He might be a disaster. Still, wouldn't every coach in the Pac-10 (except maybe Oregon's Chip Kelly) trade for USC's talent? And he's been a big part of the effort to stock the recruiting cupboard in recent years.

THE GOOD NEWS: Six of the defensive front seven returns, with DT Jurrell Casey poised for a big season. A stellar recruiting class that includes RB Dillon Baxter will immediately be put to good use. QB Matt Barkley should build off a productive bowl game.

THE BAD NEWS: Based on their draft status, DE Everson Griffen and RB Joe McKnight goofed by leaving school early. Leading receiver/punt returner Damian Williams is gone. And we're pretty sure Kiffin is no Pete Carroll.

OUR CALL: No BCS title game run. But in a mixed-up, wide-open Pac-10 — let's not forget the Trojans finished tied for fifth last season — Kiffin's first team doesn't have to be great to win the league.



13. NORTH CAROLINA

Breakthrough better late than never

Butch Davis' breakthrough at UNC was supposed to come in 2008. And then it was supposed to happen in 2009. Would you believe 2010? While an 8-5 record last season was a respectable progression, it wasn't the glass-raising celebration many predicted. That moment could come this season on Nov. 13 in a home game against ACC Coastal foe Virginia Tech, although there is plenty of business to take care of before then.

THE GOOD NEWS: Six defenders whose names you will hear, probably early, in the 2011 NFL Draft: Robert Quinn, Marvin Austin, Bruce Carter, Deunta Williams, Kendrick Burney, Quan Sturdivant. The Heels were sixth nationally in total defense last season ... and should be better.

THE BAD NEWS: UNC has a three-year starting quarterback (T.J. Yates) and good depth throughout the backfield, but points weren't easy to come by in 2009. The opening of the Heels' schedule is minefield — vs. LSU (Atlanta), vs. Georgia Tech, and at Rutgers.

OUR CALL: Nobody in the country has North Carolina's combination of NFL talent and experience on defense. C'mon ... if North Carolina doesn't do something semi-great this season, it will be an epic failure.

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14. PITTSBURGH

Moving to head of the Big East class

The Panthers have turned the corner after scuffling for the first three seasons of the Dave Wannstedt era. With his potent recruiting, Pitt is perhaps best prepared to be the lead dog in the Big East for the near future, assuming, of course, that the Big East does have a future in any impending conference realignment. In any case, Wannstedt has Pitt positioned to be a force in this or any league ... such as the Big Ten.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Panthers have three potential All-Americans: RB Dion Lewis, a Heisman candidate as a sophomore; WR Jonathan Baldwin, who made 57 catches for 1,111 yards last season; DE Greg Romeus, the reigning Big East Defensive Player of the Year.

THE BAD NEWS: There are worries about the interior offensive line spots — all three starters are new — and the Panthers don't have great receiving depth. Redshirt sophomore quarterback Tino Sunseri has the ability to be special, but he's inexperienced.

OUR CALL: No more near-misses and close calls. This season, Pitt has the goods to beat Cincinnati late in the season and take home the first Big East title of the Wannstedt era.



15. OREGON

Off-field problems stunt potential

It was all so simple. The Ducks dethroned USC last season and returned 18 starters. Quarterback Jeremiah Masoli was going to be a Heisman candidate and lead Oregon back to Pasadena. The Ducks would be a top five team nationally. And then ... Oregon had the kind of offseason that would make Tennessee look stable. Multiple off-field incidents with the law sullied the program and resulted in Masoli being suspended for the entire season. And just like that, the Pac-10 favorite once again is ... USC.

THE GOOD NEWS: Oregon has backfield blurs in LaMichael James and Kenjon Barner, and even more help is on the way. DE Kenny Rowe sacked Terrelle Pryor three times in the Rose Bowl, emblematic of the speed the Ducks have everywhere.

THE BAD NEWS: Masoli's toughness and experience can't be fully replaced by Nate Costa or Darron Thomas. TE Ed Dickson is gone; he was a huge weapon down the seam, opening space in the read-option.

OUR CALL: Even though the Ducks will have had all offseason to adjust to life without Masoli, it's a big deal that could cost them a couple of games, including one at USC.



16. ARKANSAS

Must love Hogs: brilliant 'O' seeks reliable 'D'

No one doubts Bobby Petrino can coach offense, and now he has the official Best Quarterback in the SEC — Ryan Mallett. The strong-armed junior helped the Hogs put up 40-plus points on three SEC defenses last season — Georgia, Auburn and Mississippi State — and he's gunning for more in 2010. But you can't do that every week, so Petrino, sometimes accused of ignoring defense, has refocused efforts on that side in order to build off an eight-win season.

THE GOOD NEWS: Mallett made the right call to come back to school after passing for 3,624 yards and 30 touchdowns. Arkansas' offense is explosive and versatile, and the running game should better handle its duties for whenever ball control is needed.

THE BAD NEWS: Arkansas is going to have to climb over Alabama to stun in the SEC West and the Hogs have scored just 21 points against the Tide in two years. Brutal early stretch: at Georgia, vs. Alabama, vs. Texas A&M (Arlington, Texas), at Auburn.

OUR CALL: Arkansas, last in the league in total defense in 2009, needs more than just tiny improvement. It's possible, and the Hogs should see a decent payoff in Petrino's third year.



17. GEORGIA TECH

Picking up an option on defense

The Jackets have silenced critics who believed the triple-option offense had as much chance for modern-day success in a major conference as a Model-T would at Daytona. Now, Georgia Tech, coming off an ACC championship, has to prove that coach Paul Johnson's defense can dominate when it matters. Hiring former Virginia and NFL coach Al Groh to implement the 3-4 sparked optimism, but Groh's own defense ranked 52nd nationally last season. Georgia Tech was 54th.

THE GOOD NEWS: Tech did dominate on the ground last season, averaging 295.4 yards a game. Many of the principals are gone, but Johnson will rely more heavily on quarterback Josh Nesbitt, new featured back Anthony Allen and Tech's best offensive line in years.

THE BAD NEWS: The Jackets lost four players early to the NFL Draft, including a pair of first-rounders — DE Derrick Morgan and WR Demaryius Thomas. The backups at quarterback are young and unproven, so Nesbitt will have to survive all those hits he takes in this offense.

OUR CALL: The ACC is still trying to catch up to Johnson's offense. Maybe it never will. It's just not wise to count out a Johnson-led team from any possibility.



18. LSU

Keeping sight of the Tide's tail lights

The Tigers have won 17 games in the past two years. Why hasn't that seemed like enough? Oh, yeah, there's the little matter of Alabama becoming dominant in the SEC West and stealing LSU's thunder after the Tigers brought home the national championship in 2007. Much will depend this season on whether junior quarterback Jordan Jefferson moves past a good 2009 and blossoms into a full-fledged star.

THE GOOD NEWS: Jefferson's experience is important in a league in which many teams are starting over at QB. Athletic sophomore Russell Shepard will thrive in an expanded role at receiver. CB Patrick Peterson is a commanding presence in the defensive backfield.

THE BAD NEWS: The defense returns only four starters and the defensive front isn't as imposing as in recent years. LSU has many different, inexperienced faces in the backfield and in the interior offensive line, which doesn't sound promising after the team finished 90th in rushing a year ago.

OUR CALL: This isn't likely to be a year in which the Tigers close the gap on Alabama in the West, but it will be important for LSU — and coach Les Miles — to not slip further behind.



19. WEST VIRGINIA

Looking for another Devine run

Head coach Bill Stewart had a pair of 9-4 seasons in his first two years as Rich Rodriguez's replacement. That's good, but is it good enough? West Virginia won 22 games and was in the BCS title hunt in Rodriguez's final two seasons in Morgantown. Whether the Mountaineers are moving forward or backward this season likely will be determined by the quarterback position, where Geno Smith has oodles of talent but lacks experience.

THE GOOD NEWS: RB Noel Devine could threaten the 2,000-yard mark in Jeff Mullen's offense, which will protect Smith and feature a lead full-back more often. Assuming MLB Reed Williams' leadership can be replaced, WVU's defense, with nine returning starters, should dominate.

THE BAD NEWS: Quarterback is a question mark until proven otherwise. If Smith can't do the job, perhaps incoming freshman Barry Brunetti, a Parade All-American from Memphis who last lost a football game in seventh grade, can. Watch out for games at LSU and Pitt.

OUR CALL: Eighteen returning starters are enough reason for West Virginia to be solid Top 25 timber. If Smith lives up to his potential, the Mountaineers will climb higher.

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20. MIAMI

Ticket to ride is on the road

Quarterback Jacory Harris (thumb surgery) didn't throw much in the spring, but he's expected to be just fine in August, when he'll be foremost among the many reasons Miami can contend again. Coach Randy Shannon wants a tougher team, one capable of closing out tight games in the fourth quarter ... and in a mashed-up ACC Coastal Division, you can bet there will be a few of those toss-up games.

THE GOOD NEWS: Harris is the headliner, but tailbacks Graig Cooper (coming off a knee injury) and Damien Berry, plus a cadre of pass-catchers make Miami potent. Shannon has eight holdovers on defense, including prime pro prospects in CB Brandon Harris and DE Allen Bailey.

THE BAD NEWS: Surviving the early season — three straight road games vs. Ohio State, Pitt and Clemson, before facing archrival Florida State on Oct. 9 — could take a hammer to the season's high hopes. With that gauntlet, the offensive line has to come together quickly.

OUR CALL: The U is taking steps toward evolving back into a national championship contender. But it's still just steps. The 'Canes will need a big leap to clear this schedule's hurdles, so put them down for another hard-fought eight or nine wins.



21. GEORGIA

18 wins in two years? Fix needed, ASAP

Coach Mark Richt shook up his defensive staff in the offseason, changing from a 4-3 to a 3-4 and vowing to be more aggressive and more unpredictable with edge rushes. The Bulldogs need to create havoc somehow after creating a piddling 12 turnovers last season and ranking 118th nationally in turnover margin. Richt has had more than a nice run at Georgia — 90-27 in nine seasons — but the 18-8 record from 2008 and 2009 is his worst two-year mark.

THE GOOD NEWS: Junior WR A.J. Green could be the most physically gifted wideout in the country. Nobody's kicking combination is better than P Drew Butler and K Blair Walsh. All five starters are back on the offensive line, plus Trinton Sturdivant tries to return from injury.

THE BAD NEWS: This is a tough league for on-the-job training, but the Dawgs have no choice at quarterback, where the starter could be redshirt freshman Aaron Murray (with no depth). A new scheme and only five returning starters on defense might add up to early problems.

OUR CALL: Georgia recruits well, so there's not a shortage of raw material. For now, the Dawgs would do well to stiff-arm South Carolina for second in the SEC East.



22. CINCINNATI

What to do for an encore?

These guys won 12 games last season, so you can't expect them to take a walk off the cliff just because coach Brian Kelly stepped out to Notre Dame. Not much will change in Butch Jones' first season. He'll want to see better run-pass balance, but he is using a similar quarterback-friendly offense that features the deepest receiving corps in the conference, even without Mardy Gilyard. Super sub quarterback Zach Collaros — who had an efficiency rating of 195.5 last season — gets a full season to show his stuff.

THE GOOD NEWS: The cupboard is overflowing with talent on offense, with Collaros and receivers Armon Binns, D.J. Woods, and USC transfer Vidal Hazelton, a spring standout. Jones found a few runners who can shine in a timeshare behind Isaiah Pead.

THE BAD NEWS: The transition back to a 4-3 base defense encountered some turbulence in spring. Tackling and depth are concerns. The non-conference schedule — at Fresno State, at NC State, vs. Oklahoma — is daunting.

OUR CALL: The Bearcats will still score and roll over inferior teams, but Pitt and West Virginia sense blood in the water and will leapfrog Cincinnati in the Big East race.



23. HOUSTON

Keenum, Cougs hope to transcend C-USA

Houston's success was assured — and our entertainment value was guaranteed — when Case Keenum decided to return to school in 2010, when he will be one of the top NFL prospects among senior quarterbacks. Keenum has twice thrown for 5,000 yards in a season (only Texas Tech's Graham Harrell had done that before) and last season led the nation with 44 touchdown passes. The Cougars need to pounce while he's still around.

THE GOOD NEWS: Keenum has three 1,000-yard receivers back, led by James Cleveland, who had 104 catches for 1,214 yards and 14 touchdowns last season. Bryce Beall and Charles Sims are handy to have in the backfield.

THE BAD NEWS: Last year's defense was awful. Houston was 115th in rushing defense, and coach Kevin Sumlin vows more toughness. For all the plaudits heaped on Keenum, don't forget his six interceptions in the bowl loss to Air Force.

OUR CALL: The Cougars are the easy pick to win Conference USA for the first time since 2006. A rise in the rankings depends on how they do at UCLA, vs. Mississippi State and at Texas Tech.



24. PENN STATE

Trying to sustain the momentum

JoePa is only six victories away from 400 and only a season away from his 84th birthday (Dec. 21). His 45th season on the sideline in Happy Valley doesn't appear to be a "Destination: Pasadena" season — with the uncertainty at quarterback and all — but it's OK to cut Paterno a little bit of slack. He looked like he had lost it in the first half of last decade, winning 26 games in five years. But in the past five years, Penn State roared back to win 51 games.

THE GOOD NEWS: The return of Evan Royster, on his way to the school rushing record, gives the Nittany Lions' offense a fighting chance as it works through its quarterback issues. He'll work behind a line featuring preseason All-American Stefan Wisniewski.

THE BAD NEWS: Darryl Clark wasn't adequately replaced during spring drills and a true freshman — Paul Jones — played the best of a three-way underclassman race for the QB job. Defensive playmakers Navorro Bowman, Sean Lee and Jared Odrick are gone.

OUR CALL: Paterno doesn't really have the answer at quarterback right now, which puts the Lions behind the other top Big Ten teams. A tough travel schedule — Alabama, Iowa, Ohio State — makes this look like an eight-win season.



25. UTAH

A Wynn-win Situation in SLC

Utah was 10-3 last season in a transition year after its undefeated 2008. Enough of the transition. The Utes move forward with their quarterback of the future in sophomore Jordan Wynn, who passed for 338 yards and three touchdowns in a bowl win over Cal in only his fifth start. Utah is the only serious threat to TCU in the Mountain West, while the non-conference schedule is filled with attention-raising possibilities, including Pitt (in Salt Lake City) and Notre Dame in South Bend.

THE GOOD NEWS: Utah is perfectly set in the backfield with Wynn and the running back duo of Eddie Wide and Matt Asiata, who is returning from injury. Watch for the Utes in the postseason. They have won nine consecutive bowl games.

THE BAD NEWS: Several starters are gone on defense, a situation made worse when middle linebacker Nai Fotu suffered a season-ending knee injury in the spring. The loss of six draft picks would be a significant drain to most any program.

OUR CALL: The Utes get Pitt, TCU and BYU at home. They play at Notre Dame. It's reasonable that Utah gets a split out of that on its way to another Top 25 season.

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RATING THE TEAMS 1-120

1. Alabama SEC	1	6. Wisconsin Big Ten	2	11. Nebraska Big 12	3	16. Arkansas SEC	3	21. Georgia SEC	5
2. Boise State WAC	1	7. TCU MWC	1	12. USC Pac-10	1	17. Georgia Tech. ACC	3	22. Cincinnati Big East	3
3. Ohio State Big Ten	1	8. Virginia Tech. ACC	1	13. North Carolina ACC	2	18. LSU SEC	4	23. Houston C-USA	1
4. Texas Big 12	1	9. Oklahoma Big 12	2	14. Pittsburgh Big East	1	19. West Virginia Big East	2	24. Penn State Big Ten	4
5. Florida SEC	2	10. Iowa Big Ten	3	15. Oregon Pac-10	2	20. Miami ACC	4	25. Utah MWC	2

No. Team	Conf.	Conf. Rank	
26. Florida State	ACC	5	Jimbo's first team strong at quarterback and the offensive line.
27. Auburn	SEC	6	QB play will determine the amount of this year's progress.
28. South Carolina	SEC	7	Two guesses: Spurrier will feud with QB; SC won't do usual fade.
29. Oregon State	Pac-10	3	Rodgers brothers keep the Beavers in hunt for elusive Rose Bowl.
30. Texas A&M	Big 12	4	Star power on offense ... and the defense can't be any worse.
31. Michigan State	Big Ten	5	After turbulent 2009, Spartans have talent, schedule, to start fast.
32. Texas Tech	Big 12	5	Can Tech pass, play defense and stay classy all at the same time?
33. Washington	Pac-10	4	Something good this way comes, or Locker era would be for naught.
34. Missouri	Big 12	6	Good enough to keep Nebraska from getting cocky in Big 12 North.
35. Stanford	Pac-10	5	Gifted QB Andrew Luck carries on without RB Toby Gerhart.
36. Boston College	ACC	6	Eagles never far from the chase in the ACC Atlantic Division.
37. Clemson	ACC	7	Deep and talented defense has to do the heavy lifting this year.
38. Arizona	Pac-10	6	Wildcats' offensive skill the best it has been in more than 10 years.
39. Oklahoma State	Big 12	7	26-year-old Brandon Weeden takes over at quarterback for Cowboys.
40. UConn	Big East	4	Huskies will be nipping at the heels of the Big East's best.
41. BYU	MWC	3	Big question: Will star QB recruit Jake Heaps start from Day One?
42. Rutgers	Big East	5	Is the postseason — five in a row — becoming routine for Rutgers?
43. Cal	Pac-10	7	And by picking Cal seventh, we really mean a four-way tie for 4th.
44. Navy	IND	1	Midshipmen keep rolling behind QB Ricky Dobbs, returning skill.
45. NC State	ACC	8	Tom O'Brien hasn't finished .500 in three seasons with Wolfpack.
46. Tennessee	SEC	8	Two coaching changes in two years have left Vols vulnerable.
47. Michigan	Big Ten	6	It's Code Red for the Big Blue in Rich Rodriguez's third season.
48. UCLA	Pac-10	8	Rick Neuheisel is now the more mature of the two L.A. coaches.
49. Notre Dame	IND	2	Brian Kelly gets a one-year grace period to implement new systems.
50. Iowa State	Big 12	8	Bad news for surprise 2009 bowl team: OU, Texas back on sked.
51. Nevada	WAC	2	QB Colin Kaepernick is back to lead nation's best rushing attack.
52. Kansas	Big 12	9	Turner Gill starts to change the culture by being a players' coach.
53. Fresno State	WAC	3	Rebuilding at RB, Bulldogs take on Cincinnati, Ole Miss, Illinois, Boise.
54. South Florida	Big East	6	Reasons for happiness: QB B.J. Daniels, new coach Skip Holtz.
55. Northwestern	Big Ten	7	Cats have 17 wins in past two years, but will miss QB Mike Kafka.
56. Mississippi State	SEC	9	Even at ninth in the SEC, Bulldogs would be going bowling.
57. Kansas State	Big 12	10	Worth tuning in to see what RB Daniel Thomas is going to do.
58. Purdue	Big Ten	8	Miami transfer QB Robert Marve steps into Cradle of Quarterbacks.
59. Arizona State	Pac-10	9	With the right QB, Devils will be battling in thick middle of Pac-10.
60. Air Force	MWC	4	Troy Calhoun has program on solid footing ... now, beat Navy!
61. Ole Miss	SEC	10	Young offense needs to grow up quickly for another bowl bid.
62. Indiana	Big Ten	9	The offense is promising. The defense? Well, it's the usual.
63. Kentucky	SEC	11	Joker Phillips tries to lead Cats to fifth straight bowl appearance.
64. UCF	C-USA	2	17 starters back from team that won its final six league games.
65. Wake Forest	ACC	9	QB Riley Skinner is gone; offense takes more of a running approach.
66. Southern Miss	C-USA	3	Figure on a ninth straight bowl; maybe a run to C-USA title game?
67. Baylor	Big 12	11	Optimism begins, or ends, with Robert Griffin's reconstructed knee.
68. Illinois	Big Ten	10	Zook with the hook: He brought in six new assistants for this year.
69. Central Michigan	MAC	1	LBs Nick Bellore and Matt Berning will provide the new backbone.
70. Duke	ACC	10	Five wins last season; Devils appear oh-so-close again to .500.
71. Colorado	Big 12	12	Can Buffs be encouraging enough to save Dan Hawkins' job?
72. Temple	MAC	2	Al Golden is all about being physical. Exhibit A: RB Bernard Pierce.
73. Minnesota	Big Ten	11	Offense experienced but not explosive. Bigger worries on defense.

No. Team	Conf.	Conf. Rank	
74. Virginia	ACC	11	Not enough for new coach Mike London, except CB Ras-I Dowling.
75. SMU	C-USA	4	June Jones has his QB — Kyle Padron — so Ponies will be wild.
76. Maryland	ACC	12	Terps are three games under .500 in the past six seasons.
77. Vanderbilt	SEC	12	Well-coached team that has a few horses, but not an SEC stable.
78. Syracuse	Big East	7	Orange continue to show some improvement, get out of last place.
79. San Diego State	MWC	5	Aztecs have the best pure passing game in the Mountain West.
80. Middle Tennessee	Sun Belt	1	QB Dwight Dasher appropriately named for his ability to take off.
81. Wyoming	MWC	6	Three more years of QB Austyn Carta-Samuels is a nice thought.
82. Louisville	Big East	8	Cards should be able to win again someday under Charlie Strong.
83. Louisiana Tech	WAC	4	Tech will fling the ball all over Ruston under coach Sonny Dykes.
84. Hawaii	WAC	5	Offense still high-powered but not like it was (see No. 75).
85. Tulsa	C-USA	5	Offensive skill, led by QB G.J. Kinne, could push Tulsa to .500.
86. Troy	Sun Belt	2	Even lacking experience, will challenge for 3rd league title in a row.
87. Marshall	C-USA	6	"Doc" Holliday takes over after Mark Snyder went 22-37 in 5 years.
88. Colorado State	MWC	7	Rams on the rebound after taking a goose egg in league play.
89. UTEP	C-USA	7	Good O. Bad D. No winning record in El Paso since 2005.
90. East Carolina	C-USA	8	In comes coach Ruffin McNeill; a step back this year is temporary.
91. Idaho	WAC	6	Sorry, WSU Cougars ... Vandals are the better team on the Palouse.
92. Army	IND	3	Still third-best in Commander-in-Chief's race, but getting better.
93. Northern Illinois	MAC	3	Questions at key positions, but third straight bowl is possible.
94. UNLV	MWC	8	Bobby Hauck, a winner at Montana, takes over perennial loser.
95. Washington State	Pac-10	10	Cougs have been outscored by 723 points in the past two years.
96. Toledo	MAC	4	Solid cast will surround new QB, whoever that ends up being.
97. Ohio	MAC	5	14 starters are back to push for back-to-back MAC East titles.
98. Arkansas State	Sun Belt	3	New coordinator and new spread offense. Quarterback, TBD.
99. Western Michigan	MAC	6	Hanging out at the middle MAC, even after loss of QB Tim Hiller.
100. Bowling Green	MAC	7	Lost too much firepower to match last year's 7-6 bowl season.
101. Memphis	C-USA	9	New coach Larry Porter shakes up program that slipped to 2-10.
102. Utah State	WAC	7	Eight starters back from offense that averaged 439.3 yards.
103. La.-Monroe	Sun Belt	4	Veteran coach Todd Berry takes over team that was 6-6 last year.
104. Buffalo	MAC	8	New coach Jeff Quinn imports the Cincinnati version of the spread.
105. San Jose State	WAC	8	Welcome to head coaching, Mike MacIntyre ... open at Alabama!
106. Florida Atlantic	Sun Belt	5	Just three offensive starters back for team that went 5-3 in league.
107. UAB	C-USA	10	Progress under Neil Callaway, but 6th straight losing season looms.
108. Kent State	MAC	9	Biggest news is that RB Eugene Jarvis returns from kidney injury.
109. Louisiana	Sun Belt	6	Tough schedule makes it hard to improve on 6-6 record.
110. Rice	C-USA	11	Still-young Owls get a jolt with ex-Michigan RB Sam McGuffie.
111. New Mexico	MWC	9	A long road back to respectability for Lobos, coach Mike Locksley.
112. Akron	MAC	10	Check back in a couple of years after Rob Ianello gets to recruit.
113. Ball State	MAC	11	RB MiQuale Lewis will help Cardinals bounce back from 2-10.
114. Fla. International	Sun Belt	7	Program's first winning season ever won't be this one.
115. North Texas	Sun Belt	8	RB Lance Dunbar rushed for 1,378 yards, 17 TDs last season.
116. Tulane	C-USA	12	Bob Toledo only 9-27 in first three years with the Green Wave.
117. New Mexico State	WAC	9	DeWayne Walker won three games in his 2009 debut with Aggies.
118. Miami (Ohio)	MAC	12	Encouraging spring signs for offense that averaged 15.6 points.
119. Eastern Michigan	MAC	13	Coach Ron English was 0-12 in his head coaching debut in 2009.
120. Western Kentucky	Sun Belt	9	New coach — ex-WKU QB Willie Taggart — inherits a 20-game skid.

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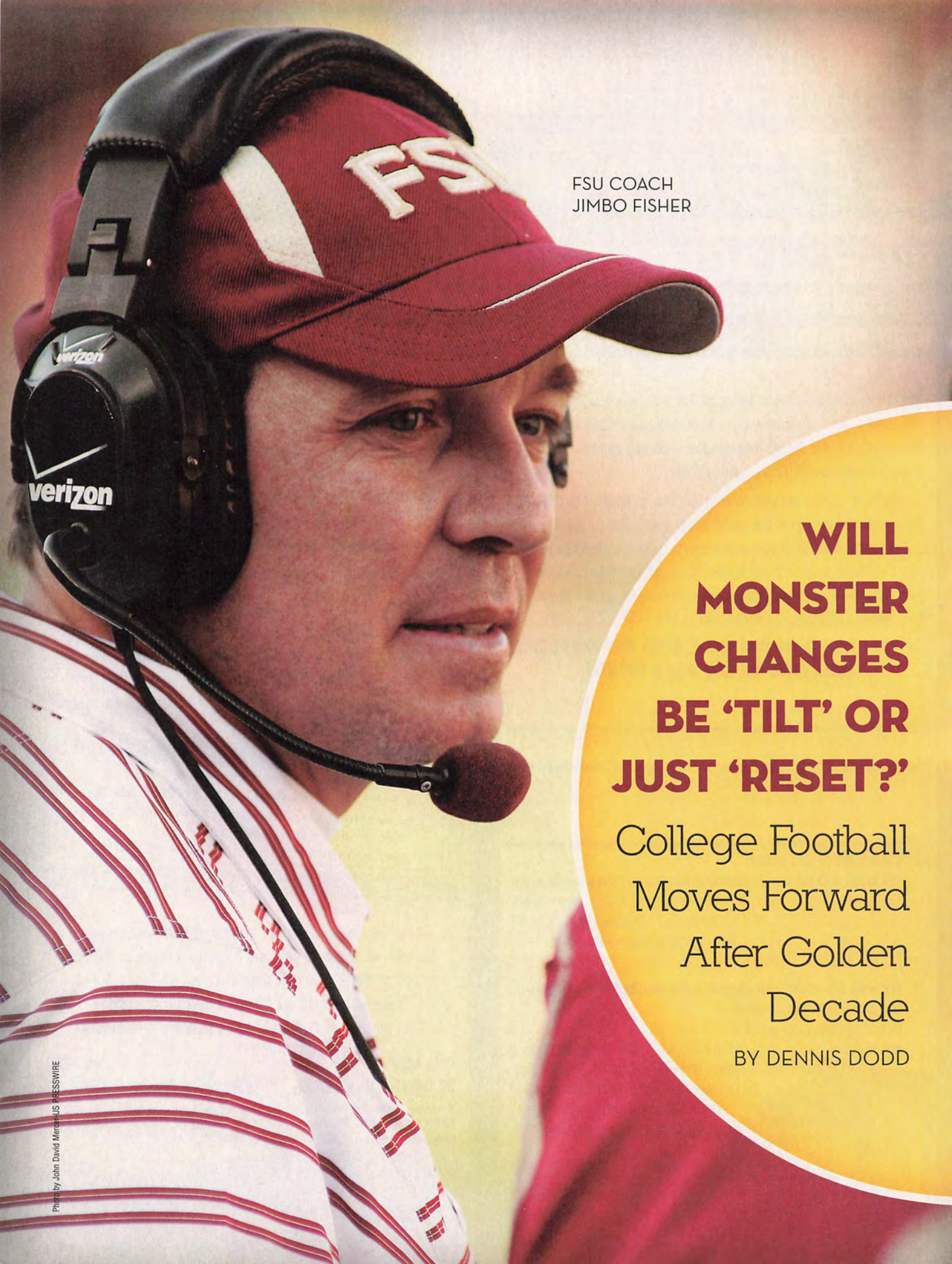
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**WILL
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BE 'TILT' OR
JUST 'RESET?'**

College Football
Moves Forward
After Golden
Decade

BY DENNIS DODD

Notre Dame's new coach took over with one scholarship quarterback on the roster. USC quickly found a replacement for Pete Carroll — a guy who has won all of seven career games in college. And who's this Jimbo guy in Tallahassee?

It's about to get real interesting as we ease into the '10s. The first 10 years of this century marked the golden decade, as the game reset itself, establishing new highs in attendance, ratings and thrills.

It began with Joe Paterno at a ripe, old 72 hearing whispers about his retirement. In 2000, the spread option was more of a choice between margarine and butter. Florida State was still good.

Way back then Michael Vick was in trouble. Well, if you consider trouble running for his life on the floor of the Sugar Bowl against the Seminoles' defense.

That was the night of Jan. 4, 2000. Four days earlier the sun rose on a new millennium and a new era in college football. Steve Spurrier was still at Florida winning SEC titles. Urban Meyer was the receivers coach at Notre Dame. Charlie Weis was about to debut as Patriots' offensive coordinator. USC, frankly, stank.

Then things really got crazy.

He had to go through a pair of other coaching jobs first, but Meyer got to Florida and surpassed in four years what Spurrier accomplished in 12. Weis helped win three Super Bowls with the New England Patriots but didn't sniff a championship in South Bend.

As a new decade dawns, Weis has retreated back to the NFL. At Florida State, they consider the golden decade a lost decade as Bobby Bowen's dominance slowly waned. Florida remains a national power despite its coach resigning, taking a leave of absence, coming back and ... oh, I'm starting to get a headache.

Uncertainty rules at those powers.

Brian Kelly takes over for Weis, who replaced Tyrone Willingham, who replaced George O'Leary, who replaced Bob Davie. And that was just in the past decade!

Florida is trying to keep Alabama from taking over the SEC. Florida State had 30,000 empty seats for a home game last season.

This decade was a week old when Alabama won its first national champi-

onship in 17 years. That was after Bama had been through the first decade cycling through five coaches (including interim Joe Kines) and loads of turmoil.

When Nick Saban accomplished in three years what all but one other coach couldn't accomplish since Bear Bryant died, everything seemed in order. Except that pinched nerve in Texas quarterback Colt McCoy's shoulder.

The day after that championship, South Florida's Jim Leavitt was fired, becoming the third coach to leave his post for alleged mistreatment of players since the end of the regular season. That same day, the news broke that Carroll was taking the Seattle Seahawks job.

All of it was a mere appetizer. A few days later Lane Kiffin, that coach with seven career wins, took the USC job. Give him credit for stones maximus, if not a full resume. Kiffin stood in front of cameras in Knoxville saying goodbye

over the place.

Shoved into the Tallahassee Sunset

It was left up to the Gator Bowl to give Bobby Bowden the proper send off at Florida State. FSU won and Papa Bowden rode off on the shoulders of players.

"That shirt says it all," former Heisman winning quarterback Chris Weinke said pointing to a fan. "The End of an Era," because it totally is. It's a sad day for college football."

Not as sad as it had been a month earlier when FSU president T.K. Wetherell and athletic director Randy Spetman asked Bobby to lunch. He left the office in early December as the coach of a dynasty. He came back, knee-capped, shot in the back, out of a job. And that was it. Everything else was just details.

A few years ago, they told Bowden

A few years ago, they told Bowden the job was his as long as he wanted it. Before they elevated Jimbo Fisher, his coach-in-waiting, they gave Bowden the ugliest parting gift ever: A shove out the door.

to Tennessee after one season while protestors raged outside.

USC athletic director Mike Freakin' Garrett hired Lane Freakin' Kiffin. One is a recluse. The other tried to wreck Urban Meyer. One fiddled while Trojans basketball star O.J. Mayo earned about \$20,000 in improper benefits according to several reports. The other led with his mouth.

Can they win together? Not likely. Not because Kiffin can't, but because Garrett probably won't be around to see it.

As this publication went to press, USC was waiting to hear from the NCAA on two fronts — alleged violations in football and basketball. The ultimate irony was watching Kiffin walk into the Tempe, Ariz., conference room with the NCAA honks. He was part of the staff when the alleged violations occurred. Now he returned to face them.

Time to reset again? You bet. All

the job was his as long as he wanted it. Before they elevated Jimbo Fisher, his coach-in-waiting, they gave Bowden the ugliest parting gift ever: A shove out the door.

It's over now and Fisher has inherited the same problems. He's 36 years younger than his former boss, has more energy and is armed with quite a pedigree. As Saban's offensive coordinator at LSU in 2003, it's hard to determine which was the bigger accomplishment for Fisher — helping the Tigers win a national championship or developing JaMarcus Russell into the overall No. 1 draft choice.

Third Season Could Be a Charm

There is much the same feeling of renewal at Nebraska where Bo Pelini enters his third season. After taking

"Oh, he'll be back," receiver David Nelson said that night about Meyer. "He's too much of a competitor. ... He can't stay away from the game too long. He'll sit back for a couple of weeks and he'll see the workouts and the guys he loves."

Texas to the gun in the Big 12 championship game, the Huskers think they've turned the corner. At least their fans do.

Nebraska is favored to win the Big 12 North and, depending on Texas' and Oklahoma's performance, maybe the conference.

But we've been at this place with Nebraska several times in the past decade. The program went from the national championship game in 2001 to a loss of identity under Bill Callahan.

When we gathered in a lounge behind Nebraska's press box that first week of February in 2005, we all had bought in — the media; John Blake, the disgraced former Oklahoma head coach who had remade himself as an ace recruiter; and Callahan. That 2005 class rated No. 1 by at least one service.

Five years later, six players from 2005 made it through as fifth-year seniors in 2009. One of them was Ndamukong Suh, one of the most decorated players in school history. They were parts of teams that went 41-24, basically an average of 8-5.

Those Nebraska recruits were part of three bowl wins, two division titles, but no championship. The closest they came was that 13-12 loss to Texas in December.

Now we'll see if it was another tease or prelude to Nebraska returning to prominence.

Speaking of comebacks, it is recommended that Rich Rodriguez make one this season at Michigan. It's clear that RichRod doesn't have much time after posting the worst season in Michigan history (3-9) in 2008 and following up with 5-7 in 2009. The Wolverines have lost their identity. The whole thing has a square-peg-round-hole feel to it.

It doesn't help that Michigan could be facing major sanctions. Rodriguez reportedly violated the NCAA's 20-hour work week statute. All of it comes at a time when defenses all over the coun-

try seem to be figuring out Rodriguez's vaunted spread.

Flip-Flopping at Florida

While Michigan looks for closure, there was precious little of it at Florida. The coach's retirement/leave/latest flip-flop soap opera played out while the Gators chomped Cincinnati 51-24 in the Sugar Bowl.

Florida fans came to give a proper sendoff to Tim Tebow, who solidified his sainthood for Gator Nation. After that, well, Florida fans left not knowing just what the hell is in store for the future.

"Oh, he'll be back," receiver David Nelson said that night about Meyer. "He's too much of a competitor. ... He can't stay away from the game too long. He'll sit back for a couple of weeks and he'll see the workouts and the guys he loves."

That's pretty much exactly what happened, but only after many twists and turns.

Dec. 26 was a silent night until

Meyer shockingly decided to resign. All of 18 hours later, he announced he was returning, which ended the Steve Addazio era as interim coach through one night's sleep. Meyer came back, recruited a heck of a class, then proved he still had some work to do by lashing out at an *Orlando Sentinel* reporter for ... reporting the facts.

With the Tebow era passed, John Brantley takes over. You know what I mean, a real quarterback.

And to think the Cincinnati team that lost by 27 that night was within a second of playing for the national championship. If McCoy hadn't thrown the ball away just in time against Nebraska, and if Hunter Lawrence hadn't then punched in the winning field goal, Brian Kelly would have had a heck of a decision to make.

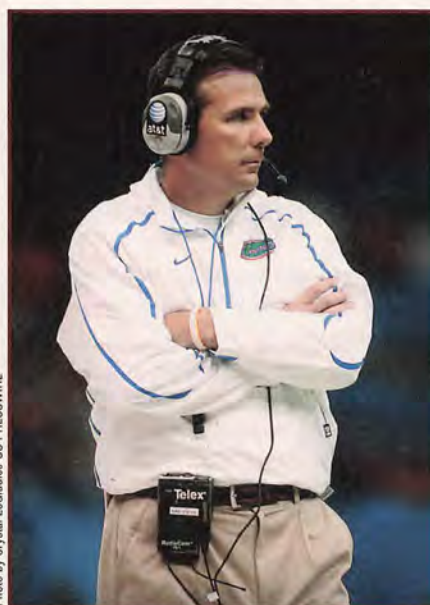
Go to Notre Dame for the job of a lifetime, or coach Cincinnati in the national championship game?

Fortunately, for everyone involved he didn't have to make that decision. Except the media. That would have been a hoot covering that, actually.

A New Plan at ND

But on to South Bend, where Kelly will try to build his new program in the image of ... Cincinnati.

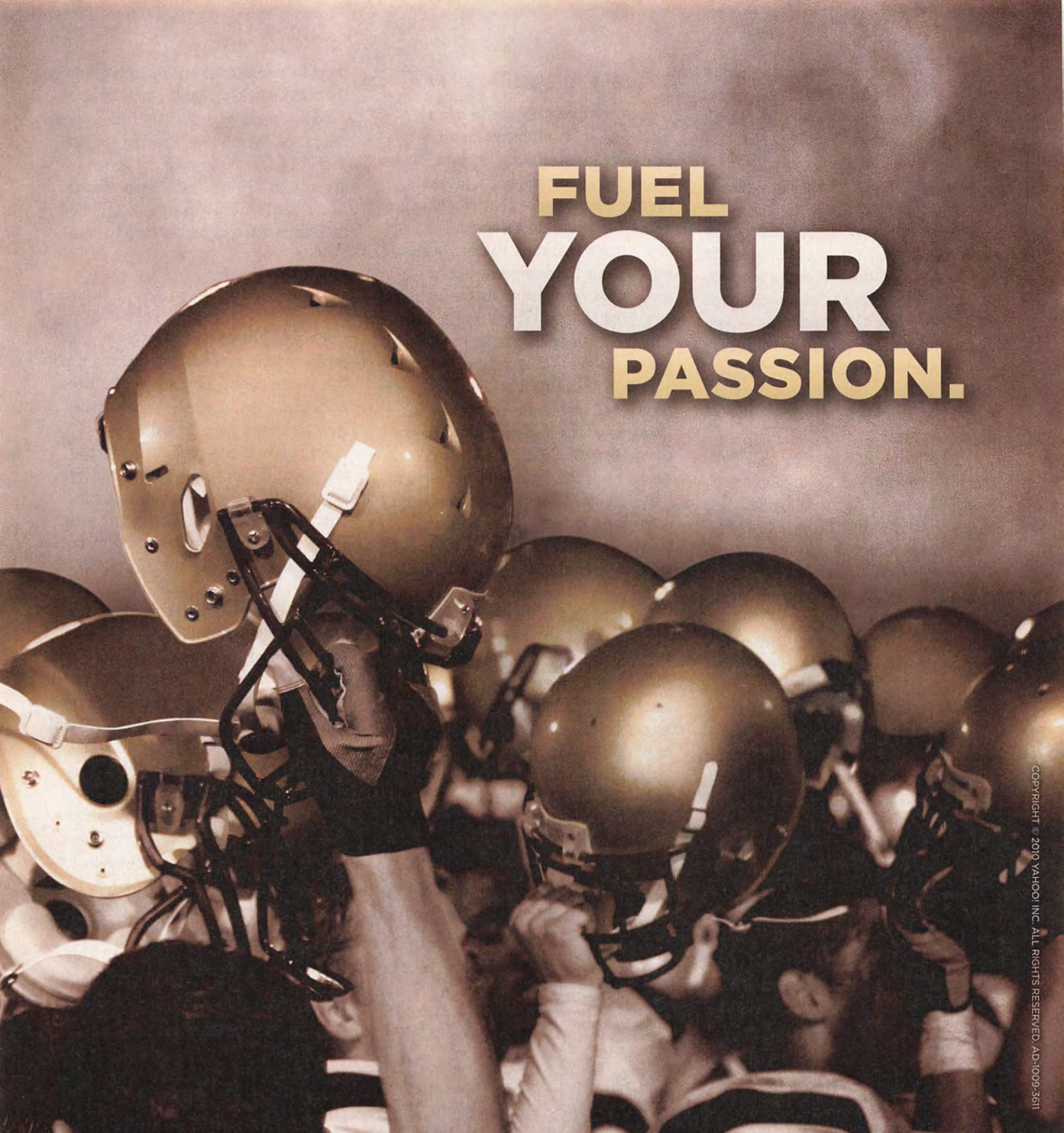
When did you think you'd read those words?



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Like his predecessor, Kelly is a quarterback maker. Like his predecessor, he is Catholic. Like his predecessor, he is articulate, cracks wise and is outspoken. Like his predecessor, he has recruited well.

So what's the difference? The spread option and junior quarterback Crist.

Kelly has installed his version of the zone read spread and needs Dayne Crist to stay healthy. Crist nursed a surgically repaired knee in the offseason. Even with Kelly's first recruiting class, there is precious little depth at quarterback.

Notre Dame is in a two-decade-plus malaise since its last national championship, and a couple of things have become evident:

- It's either a BCS bowl or bust for the Irish who, in fact, turned down a bowl last year so they could clear their heads prior to Kelly's hiring. There is no in-between for the program these days when Notre Dame is a BCS entity in itself. There are six major conferences and the Irish.

- Kelly, an Irish-Catholic Democrat, has the right pedigree and said all the right things including: "There is no five-year plan; there's a five-minute plan."

He's got that about right. In the past decade, ND distinguished itself more for its impatience than its football. Kelly is Notre Dame's sixth coach since 2000 (including George O'Leary, who never coached a game, and the Kent Baer era as interim).

What's Ahead?

Look for Florida State to bounce back. Fisher, as offensive coordinator, has made quarterback Christian Ponder into a Heisman candidate. He takes over in a conference that is winnable.

The Pac-10 should become something more than a boat race. USC had won at least a share for seven consecutive seasons. Oregon snapped that streak last year and could be the next conference power if Chip Kelly can figure out how to keep his players on the field and out of jail.

Kiffin's replacement at Tennessee, Derek Dooley, will go into his first season in Knoxville with a depleted roster. For the time being, the SEC looks like it will continue to be ruled by Florida and Alabama.

Florida loses Tebow. Saban loses nine starters on defense. Still, Bama is *Lindy's* preseason No. 1 and will be the same in several other preseason polls. Florida should remain in the Top 10.

"If this team is No. 1, it's because of what they did last year ...," Saban said. "If I was to vote, I wouldn't vote it. I would think there's somebody that has more players coming back and had a successful team last year that is going to be more ready to compete that way."

OK, then — contenders? Watch Boise State and TCU. Their Fiesta Bowl meeting might be a foreshadowing. Same desert, same stadium, different game in January.

Don't be surprised if one or both get to the national championship this time.

Watch for defenses to fight back against the spread. Already we're seeing the rise of the 3-4 scheme to keep the spread under control. The trend is more toward quicker, lighter linebackers who can drop back in coverage as well as stop the run.

Following the Golden Decade

It's going to be hard to top the first decade of the century. Four of the top five passers of all-time played between 2000 and 2006. Coaches became rock stars and were paid accordingly.

For the first time, an entire decade was spent deciding the sport's champion on the field. Before you do a spit-take on this page, we know your pain. Those might not have been the teams you wanted to see in the BCS title game, but you certainly did watch.

The BCS propagandists are right about one thing: College football's regular season is the best in sports. Remember 2007? The Season of the Upset produced six changes at the No. 1 spot. Seventeen teams were in the top five of the AP poll at one time or another. Only 10 teams since 2000 have held the No. 1 spot in the weekly BCS standings.

Yes, the decade will be known for giving identity to the previously nameless.

Ten years ago, Boise State was in its fifth year in Division I-A. In 2009, it finished its third undefeated regular season in the past six years.

TCU has positioned itself as an annual BCS contender under 2009 Coach of the Year Gary Patterson, a guitar-strumming defensive mastermind.

In 2000, Utah was better known as a state. Who knew the state university also played football?

If someone told you at the beginning of this century that Hawaii would soon play in New Orleans, in the Sugar Bowl, led by a Heisman finalist, you would have said they had one too many hurricanes.

Speaking of Hurricanes, at the beginning of the decade Miami was enhancing its dynasty. Now? Chasing that legacy. It has changed stadiums and coaches. It used to be all about the U. Now it's about getting out of a non-conference

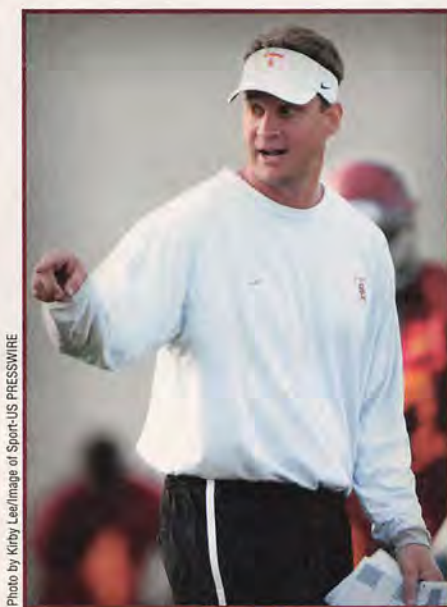


Photo by Kirby Lee/Image of Sport-US PRESSWIRE

USC COACH LANE KIFFIN



Photo by Matt Cashore-US PRESSWIRE

NOTRE DAME COACH BRIAN KELLY

schedule that could hurt Miami as much as help it.

Elsewhere, big boys saw their reps enhanced because of that de facto championship game. LSU won two titles in five years under two different coaches. At the beginning of the decade, the program was having a hard time keeping Louisiana's best prep talent at home. Now, in part because of the BCS attention, it gets the best from Shreveport to Larose.

Coaching salaries bumped into the space station on their way into outer space. It's almost laughable to remember that Saban was considered a hopelessly overpaid carpetbagger when he was given \$1.2 million per season when he was hired at LSU 10 years ago. That made him the third-highest paid coach in the country, but unlike the other two, he hadn't won a national title.

That's nothing compared to Oklahoma's Bob Stoops who, with bonuses, could make \$5 million in 2011. Stoops' run started in 2000 with a national championship. Five more Big 12 titles followed, as did a decade's worth of classic battles with Texas.

"I was trying to figure out where I fit here," Longhorns coach Mack Brown said of 2000. "There were some question marks back then of where we were headed and if I was the right fit."

Yeah, the question marks surrounding Mack at the beginning of the decade — the Longhorns had won only nine games in each of his first two seasons, one of which ended with Ricky Williams winning the Heisman.

Brown and Texas have reeled off nine consecutive seasons of at least 10 wins. During that time they played for two titles, winning one. That's more like it for the richest football program in the country.

That title, though, is tenuous as long as there are enough Sugar Daddies to chase the dream.

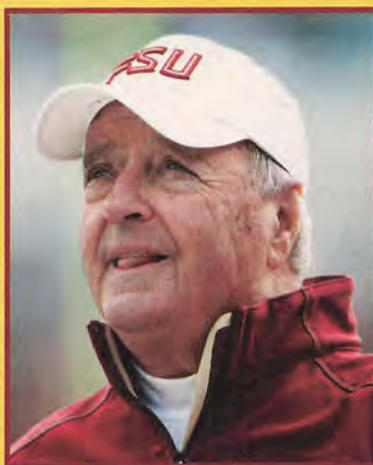
Oklahoma State has billionaire provider T. Boone Pickens. Oregon is Phil Knight's baby — the program can boast a staggering 384 uniform combinations provided by Nike. His program went to its second Rose Bowl in 15 years before being derailed by those off-field problems that will cost them quarterback Jeremiah Masoli this season.

If anything, the sport might be undervalued. Larry Scott was brought in as new Pac-10 commissioner to explore expansion — of schools and of the league's brand. Scott was pleased to find out UCLA merchandise is offered at 70 outlets in China.

In 2009, the SEC's finalized 15-year, \$3 billion deal with CBS, ESPN and others proves that we have an unquenchable thirst for our sport. The Big Ten is figuring out what to do with \$2.8 billion it will make from its Big Ten Network alone over the next 25 years.

Who is the next Tebow, Saban, Carroll? The next USC, Texas, Alabama? It's about to get real interesting finding out.

Dennis Dodd is a senior writer for CBSsports.com covering college football.



College Football's Brain Drain

After last season, college football lost 10 coaches who had amassed more than 50 victories. A couple of them might be back someday — especially if that thing with the Seattle Seahawks doesn't work out for Pete Carroll — but the majority figures to continue to ride off into the sunset.

These 10 coaches accounted for 1,261 victories and 185 seasons of head-coaching experience, and that's after subtracting the 14 wins that were stripped from Bobby Bowden after his retirement. Anyway, it's all quite a brain drain as college football enters a new decade.

Coach, last school	Career	Years
Bobby Bowden, Florida State	377-129-4	44
Dick Tomey, San Jose State	183-145-7	29
Rich Brooks, Kentucky	130-156-4	25
Pete Carroll, USC	97-19	9
Jim Leavitt, USF	95-57	13
Al Groh, Virginia	85-93	15
Tommy West, Memphis	84-96	15
Mike Leach, Texas Tech	84-43	10
Charlie Weatherbie, La.-Monroe	76-115	17
Mark Mangino, Kansas	50-48	8

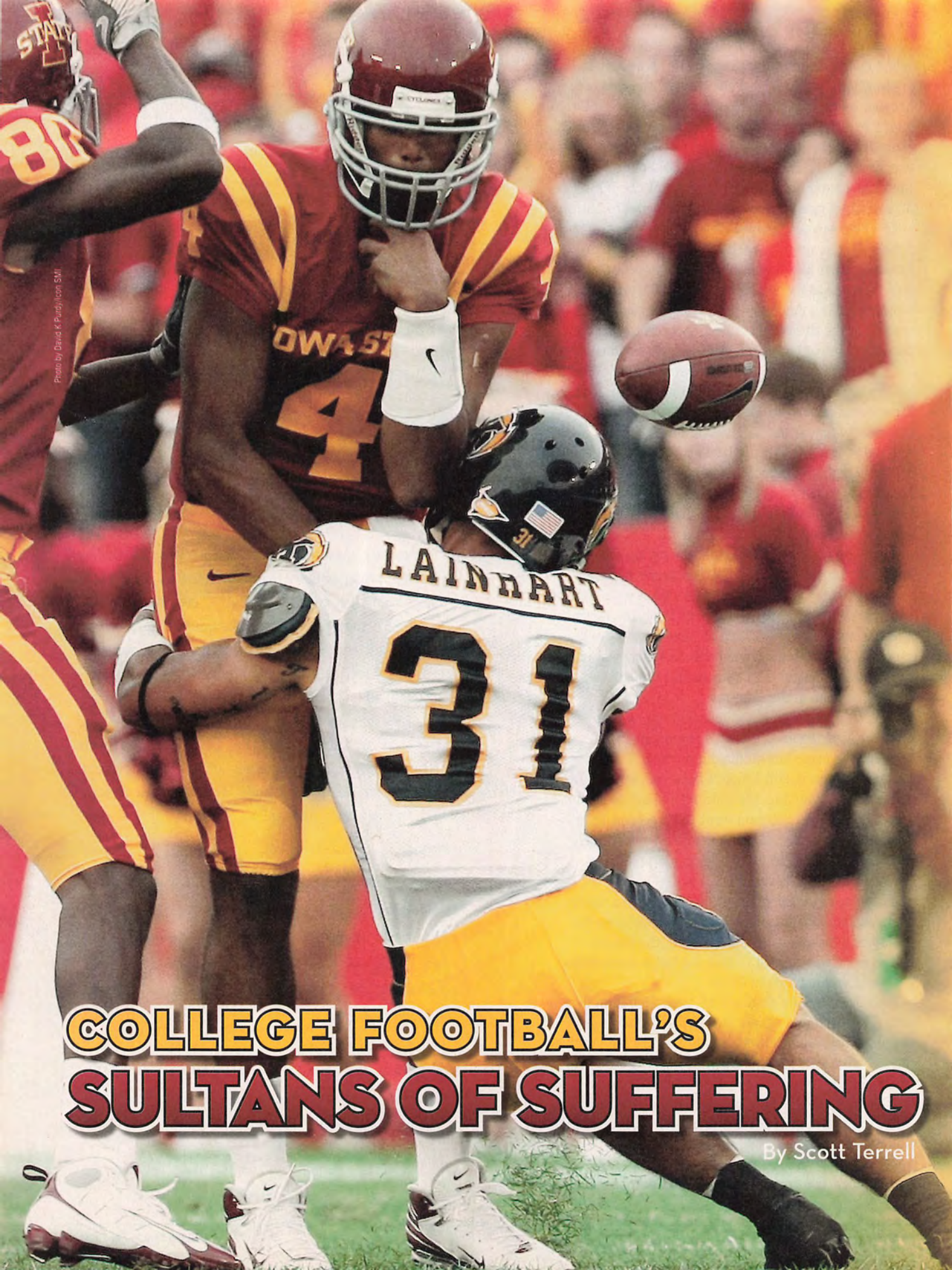


Photo by David K. Purdy/Icon SM

COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S SULTANS OF SUFFERING

By Scott Terrell

Everyone will predict whether or not Alabama can repeat as national champions. There will be no shortage of articles breaking down which all-world recruits will replace Texas' recently departed all-world recruits.

That's nice. We're going to shed some light on the programs up the other end of the college football spectrum.

Who is the best at not being the best?

We're looking for the program that desperately wants to win, but just can't get all the way to the top.

Who qualifies as the Chicago Cubs of college football?

You don't get to join the pity party if you didn't join a conference until the 1990s (sorry, Boston College and Pitt). You get a pass if the age of your program still isn't old enough to drive (at ease, South Florida).

This is for the big boys of suffering. The 10 college football programs that have gone the longest without an outright conference championship.

No. 10 — Indiana

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1945

Most Recent Near-Miss: 1967

Indiana's lone Rose Bowl team came within a loss at Minnesota of a perfect regular season.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Is it basketball season yet?

Ask any Indiana fan about the long conference championship drought and they'll think you're talking about the 17 years since the basketball team won one. There have been 17 football coaches at IU since 1922 and exactly one of them had an overall winning record. There's a reason Lee Corso turned to wearing mascot heads.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Air-ball.

IU hasn't had a winning record in Big Ten play since 1993. It's easy to see why the movie "Hoosiers" wasn't about football.

No. 8 (tie) — Minnesota

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1941

Most Recent Near-Miss: 1967

Interestingly, it's the same year as above. The Gophers beat Indiana, but lost to Purdue to settle for a three-way tie for first.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Dreaming of the good old days.

The Gophers were a powerhouse before World War II. During its absolute peak, from 1934-1941, Minnesota won five out-

right conference titles and five national championships. The Gophers were also awarded the 1960 national championship back when the final polls came out before the bowl games (Minnesota lost the Rose Bowl to finish 8-2).

Future Breakthrough Potential: Stuck in the shadows of giants.

Consistently hovering around 3-5 to 5-3 in the Big Ten, Minnesota isn't much of a threat to topple Ohio State, Penn State, etc. Gopher fans will always have the Great Depression.

No. 8 (tie) — Mississippi State

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1941

Most Recent Near-Miss: 1998

The Bulldogs won the SEC West Division and led the conference championship game midway through the fourth quarter before falling to undefeated Tennessee.

Intensity of Heartbreak: On the rise.

Mississippi State had a long tradition of finishing near the bottom of the SEC until Jackie Sherrill showed up. His overall record at MSU was exactly .500, but he had a four-year run when they finished tied for third, tied for first, second and tied for third in the SEC West. With a taste of success, true suffering can begin.

Future Breakthrough Potential:

Rebuilding with hope.

MSU showed a commitment to winning by hiring long-time Urban Meyer assistant Dan Mullen, who is preparing for his second season in Starkville. Bulldog fans hope they have a coach who can grow into a guy who can give Alabama and LSU a scare.

No. 7 — Arizona

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1936

Most Recent Near-Miss: 1998

The 12-1 Wildcats only lost once in Pac-10 play, but that loss just happened to be to a UCLA team that went undefeated.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Like the desert sun.

It would be easy to lump Arizona in the "basketball school" category, but the Wildcats' gridiron shortcomings aren't due to a lack of effort. In the '40s, Arizona hired away Hardin-Simmons' championship-winning coach. Future Hall of Famer Jim Young had a .704 winning percentage and a WAC co-championship in the '70s. Dick Tomey's Desert Swarm teams won a Pac-10 co-championship. But Arizona can't hide from the stigma of being the

only team in the Pac-10 and Big Ten to never play in the Rose Bowl.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Perfect timing?

In Mike Stoops' six years in Tucson, the Wildcats' yearly Pac-10 win totals look like this: 2, 2, 4, 4, 5, 6. Can Stoops keep that trend going in 2010 with an experienced offense and three senior starters on the defensive line? Can Arizona take advantage of the apparent window of opportunity in the Pac-10 with Pete Carroll leaving USC and Lane Kiffin not yet established? Or will championship dreams continue to wilt in the heat?

No. 5 (tie) — Kansas

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1930

Most Recent Near-Miss: 2007

The Jayhawks only lost once, but that eight-point loss to Missouri kept KU out of the Big 12 championship game.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Better late than never.

Kansas was settled into its role as a hoops titan that didn't do anything on the football field, but then Mark Mangino proved you can win football games in Lawrence. Were the three bowl wins in four years a fluke, or was the 2007 National Coach of the Year building a championship contender? We'll never know as Mangino is now a Rock Chalk Ex-Jayhawk.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Fired.

Mangino's exit amid allegations of player abuse has forced the Kansas program to start over. But the 2008 basketball team did very well, thank you.

No. 5 (tie) — Washington State

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1930

Most Recent Near-Miss: 2002

Mike Price's second co-championship team went 7-1 in league play and to the Rose Bowl.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Happily a flash in the pan.

For the most part, WSU has had a laid-back approach to its football program. In the 30 years from the mid-1950s to the mid-'80s, the Cougars had three coaches stick around for eight or more years despite overall losing records. Mike Price changed that with three 10-win seasons and he went 2-for-2 in getting co-champions to the Rose Bowl via tiebreakers. But when Price left to be the head coach



at Alabama for 15 minutes, Wazzu replaced him with a long-time assistant who turned a second-place team into a ninth-place team in two years ... and the Cougars have yet to recover.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Get out the telescope.

Based on the last two seasons Washington State is further away from a conference championship than anybody. At least Cougar fans have the flag-waving thing on College GameDay.

No. 4 — Purdue

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1929

Most Recent Near-Miss: 2003

The Boilermakers went 6-2 in Big Ten play, but lost to 7-1 Michigan.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Content.

Purdue is the most surprising team on this list. The Boilermakers have six co-championships since their last outright one. The 1966 and 2000 teams went to the Rose Bowl. Purdue has put a slew of quarterbacks in the NFL, including Hall of Famers Len Dawson and Bob Griese, and reigning Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees. Considering Joe Tiller was retained for 12 years without a 10-win season, and basketball coach Gene Keady lasted 25 years without going to the Final Four, Purdue seems to be satisfied with its good-but-not-great status.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Decent, but not required.

First-year coach Danny Hope played both Rose Bowl participants tough last

year, beating Ohio State and losing to Oregon by two, which makes Boilermaker fans optimistic he can live up to his name. But as long as Hope continues to make regular bowl appearances and find QBs who can fling the ball around, he'll enjoy a long, happy stay in West Lafayette.

No. 3 — Vanderbilt

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1915

Most Recent Near-Miss: 1935

Vandy went 5-1 in league play to finish second in the SEC. They haven't finished as high as second since.

Intensity of Heartbreak: We have sports?

Vanderbilt does have sports, but they don't have an athletic department. The sports teams are run by the department of Student Life, which sums up the school's priorities. And there's nothing wrong with that. Vandy is the only private school on this list and the university leaders are happy with academics being far and away the top priority. So why are they members of the sports-mad Southeastern Conference? It's like when a football program brags about its academic All-Americans and you find out they're talking about a fifth-string wide receiver and the third-string punter.

Future Breakthrough Potential: What is the square root of zero?

Vanderbilt hasn't even had a football co-championship since 1923. The 2008 Music City Bowl was Vanderbilt's first bowl game in 26 years and first bowl win in 53 years. Commodore fans were smart enough to enjoy it while it lasted.

No. 2 — Virginia

Last Outright Conference Championship: 1908

Most Recent Near-Miss: 2007

Virginia lost a winner-take-all rivalry game with Virginia Tech to finish second in the ACC Coastal Division.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Making up for lost time.

Virginia fans have a built-in excuse. They can say, "We went 31-7 over a four-year stretch in the early '50s! We would've dominated anybody, but we didn't feel like playing in a conference!" The Cavaliers joined the ACC in 1954, but the Cavaliers never topped five overall wins in a season in the first 14 years. Over the next 17 years, Virginia hit seven wins once. But starting in 1984, the Cavaliers finished second in the ACC five times and tied for first two other times (1989 and 1995). After getting a taste of

football championship blood, Virginia fired Al Groh following a 3-9 season.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Wait and see.

The Cavaliers are pinning their hopes on Mike London, a former Virginia assistant who made an instant splash with an FCS national title in his first year as the head coach at Richmond. London will be given a chance to win in Charlottesville, but he better win big or the sharks will start circling again.

No. 1 — Iowa State

Last Outright Conference Championship: Never, ever, ever.

Most Recent Near-Miss: 2005

Iowa State finished a game behind Colorado in the North Division and beat the Buffaloes head-to-head. If the Cyclones had won any of their three overtime games, they would have played in the Big 12 championship game.

Intensity of Heartbreak: Can you miss something you've never had?

The Cyclones won Missouri Valley co-championships in 1911 and 1912. Since then they've only shown signs of life on two other occasions: a run of four bowl games (all losses) in the '70s, and Dan McCarney's string of five bowls in six years in the 2000s. McCarney's unprecedented success wasn't enough, as he was forced to resign after his next losing season.

Future Breakthrough Potential: Better hurry up.

First-year coach Paul Rhoads led Iowa State to a 7-6 record and the third bowl victory in school history. The bad news is with Nebraska's resurgence, the days of 5-3 teams winning the Big 12 North may be over. The really bad news for Rhoads is that wins are now expected, no matter what has gone on in the previous century.

There are different shades of suffering, but the best way to compare programs is ask if their fans would trade places with someone else.

Vanderbilt doesn't want anything getting the way of academics. Kansas and Indiana wouldn't part with any of their past basketball success. But Arizona would definitely trade with Purdue, and the Wildcats would take a long, hard look at Washington State's two Rose Bowls. Virginia would certainly be willing to trade up.

But there isn't anybody who would want to join Iowa State in saying it's been 97 years since they won even half of something. Except maybe the Cubs.

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S 3	Boise St	(-3)	Oregon	19-8	W	8
S 4	Tulsa	(-14)	Tulane	37-13	W	10
S 5	Baylor	(+2½)	Wake For	24-21	W	5½
	BYU	(+22½)	Oklahoma	14-13	W	23½
S 6	Memphis	(+17½)	Miss	14-45	L	
S10	Titans	(+6½)	Steelers	10-13	W	3½



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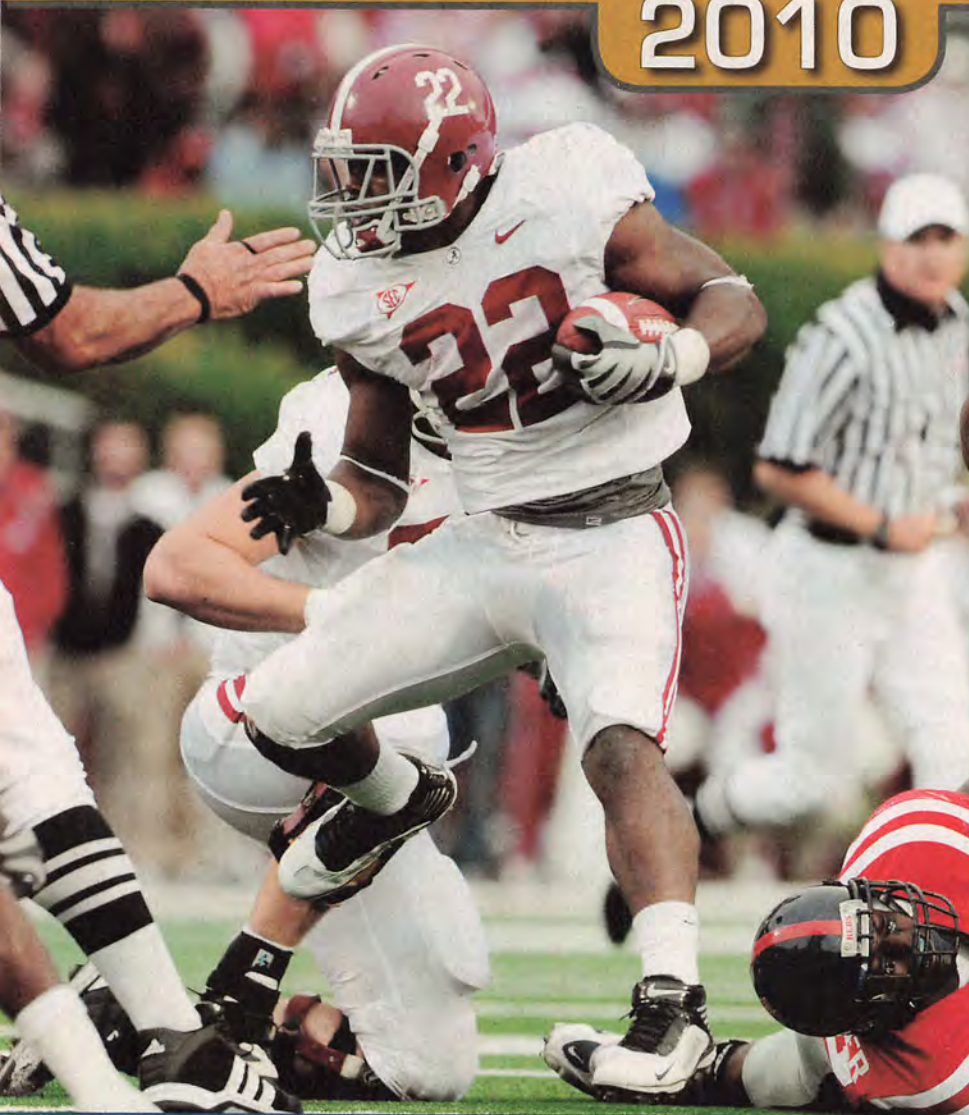
"Wayne Allyn Root is an American gambling legend."

John O'Reilly, Ladbrokes.com, world's largest legal bookmaker

"Wayne Allyn Root has propelled himself to the highest echelons of success."

Millionaire Magazine

LINDY'S 2010



Big Heart in Big Moments Wins Big Games ... and a Heisman Trophy

By Ben Cook

For the night, Ingram set a Bryant-Denny Stadium record with 246 yards rushing on 24 carries and caught two passes for 23 yards for a total of 269 yards of total offense.

"The guy ran with tremendous passion and heart and did a wonderful job out there," said Alabama coach Nick Saban. "I can tell you, if we had guys that could play like that, the sky would be the limit in terms of heart and character that he plays with."

Saban attempted to pinpoint just what makes Ingram such a special back before Alabama played Florida for the SEC championship last season.

"Mark is a great competitor and an outstanding person," the Alabama coach said. "He's had a phenomenal year because of the hard work. And the guy's a great competitor. And I think that his resiliency as a competitor has contributed to his great physical ability as a running back."

For a running back, Ingram is the complete package at 5-10 and 215 pounds. He is from Flint, Mich., and comes by his football roots naturally. His father, Mark Sr., was an outstanding receiver at Michigan State and a first-round draft choice by the New York Giants.

The Tide star has balance, quick-

Alabama running back Mark Ingram won the hearts of the nation with his emotional Heisman Trophy acceptance speech in December.

But he probably won the trophy with a gritty Saturday night performance on Oct. 17 against South Carolina. Late in the game with Alabama's undefeated season hanging in the balance, Ingram proved that determination and the will to win was enough to keep the body going long after it logically should have been able to do so.

Alabama led 13-6 with 7:55 left in the game. The Crimson Tide was on its 32-yard line when Ingram took over.

"The high point of the season for me

was the South Carolina game, that final drive where we ran numerous plays out of the Wildcat and then finished it off with a toss," said Ingram.

"They put the ball in my hands in a clutch situation and I took advantage of that. There were times where I thought about coming out, but I stayed with it."

All Ingram, all the time: On five consecutive plays, Ingram took the direct snap in the Wildcat formation and covered 64 yards to the Gamecocks' 4-yard line. On the next play, Ingram took a toss and bolted four yards for the touchdown that locked up Alabama's 20-6 triumph.

It became known in Alabama as the Heisman Trophy Drive: 68 yards on six carries, an average of 11.3 yards a carry.

Photo by R.D. Moore

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

ness, strength and speed. When he sees the slightest crease, he is through it in a flash, often leaving tacklers grasping at thin air or trying to pick themselves up off the ground after Ingram powered over them. Just his yards after contact would be outstanding rushing totals for most backs.

Alabama faced six ranked opponents in 2009 and in those games Ingram averaged 156.8 yards rushing, with many of those coming after the first contact was made.

"The secret to yards after contact would be how much 'want' you have to get the extra yards," Ingram said, explaining his ability to keep going after being hit. "You don't want to receive the hit all the time,

you want to give the hit. I would say it would be your desire."

It often takes six or seven tacklers to slow him down. His running style is hard to explain, even for him.

"When the ball is snapped and I get the ball, I just hear noises — pow, pow," Ingram said. "Then I just see flashes of different colors of jerseys and I react to it. People ask me what did I see, but I really can't tell you what I saw ... all I did was react."

This season Ingram will be the latest underclassman to try to repeat his Heisman Trophy season. There have been 19 underclassmen to win the award and

only one — Ohio State's Archie Griffin — pulled off a repeat performance.

The Heisman Trophy weighs 25 pounds, but the weight it carries in terms of making you a marked man on the football field is infinitely more than that.

"I'm a little overwhelmed right now," Ingram said when his name was called at the Heisman Trophy Award Show. "It's a great honor to be a member of the Heisman fraternity ... and I am just so excited to bring Alabama their first Heisman winner."

Ingram led Alabama to the SEC title and national championship last season, but Alabama already had plenty of those trophies. Now, thanks to Mark Ingram, the trophy case is complete.

OFFENSE



Kellen Moore



Mark Ingram



Dion Lewis



Michael Floyd



A.J. Green



Kyle Rudolph

FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
QB	Kellen Moore	6-0	187	Jr.	Boise State
RB	Mark Ingram	5-10	215	Jr.	Alabama
RB	Dion Lewis	5-8	195	So.	Pitt
WR	Michael Floyd	6-3	220	Jr.	Notre Dame
WR	A.J. Green	6-4	205	Jr.	Georgia
TE	Kyle Rudolph	6-6	265	Jr.	Notre Dame
C	Mike Pouncey	6-4	310	Sr.	Florida
OL	Rodney Hudson	6-2	285	Sr.	Florida State
OL	Stefen Wisniewski	6-3	297	Sr.	Penn State
OL	Gabe Carimi	6-7	315	Sr.	Wisconsin
OL	Anthony Castonzo	6-7	295	Sr.	Boston College
PK	Kai Forbath	6-0	192	Sr.	UCLA

SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
QB	Ryan Mallett	6-7	238	Jr.	Arkansas
RB	Jacquizz Rodgers	5-7	188	Jr.	Oregon State
RB	Noel Devine	5-8	175	Sr.	West Virginia
WR	Jonathan Baldwin	6-5	225	Jr.	Pitt
WR	Julio Jones	6-4	211	Jr.	Alabama
TE	Lance Kendricks	6-4	239	Sr.	Wisconsin
C	Kristopher O'Dowd	6-5	300	Sr.	USC
OL	Justin Boren	6-3	320	Sr.	Ohio State
OL	John Moffitt	6-5	323	Sr.	Wisconsin
OL	Nate Solder	6-9	300	Sr.	Colorado
OL	Matt Reynolds	6-6	329	Jr.	BYU
PK	Blair Walsh	5-10	185	Jr.	Georgia



Mike Pouncey



Rodney Hudson



Stefen Wisniewski



Gabe Carimi



Anthony Castonzo



Kai Forbath

LINDY'S 2010



Jones Looking to Turn MSU into Gridiron Power, too

By Dennis Dodd

era that has produced a few — A.J. Hawk, Paul Posluszny, James Laurinaitis, etc.

If only the rest of the Spartans were as committed.

Michigan State fought through an off-field scandal to go to its third consecutive bowl game in 2009. A modest accomplishment considering that during Izzo's 15 seasons, football has had two more winning seasons (seven) than coaches (five). Coach No. 5 is Mark Dantonio, whose 22 wins are tied for the most by one Michigan State coach during a three-year span since George Perles' 23 from 1987 to '89.

"I feel like we're a team on the rise," Jones said. "A lot of other teams don't expect it, which is perfectly fine. I believe in what we're doing."

Dantonio obviously will build around his star. Outside linebackers Chris Norman and Eric Gordon put the group in the conversation for the conference's top trio at that position. Jones started his career as an outside linebacker but was quickly switched to the middle, where he became the first Spartan in five years to put together back-to-back 100-tackle seasons.

The surprise for Michigan State in 2010 is that Jones is even around. In January, he announced, to the surprise of some, that he was staying for his senior season. Jones said he got a draft projection ranging from the first to the third round. He deemed the NFL too big a risk with that much uncertainty.

"I was kind of surprised he stayed in

Like every loyal Spartan, Greg Jones found himself in front of a television in early April. There is spring practice at Michigan State and there is Michigan State's rite of spring — going to the Final Four.

Jones is a fan, naturally, with intimate knowledge of Tom Izzo's program. Not only does he know Izzo's guys, somewhere in the deep recesses of his brain, Jones believes he can play with those guys. Mostly because he *has* played with those guys.

"A little bit," Michigan State's All-American middle linebacker said of the odd pickup game with the basketball Spartans. "I'm not too bad. I pride myself on being one of the better basketball players on the football team."

The pride is misplaced. At 6-1, 235 pounds, Jones is one of the country's best

football players. Sure, the senior could step out of the Breslin Center "Izzone" and into a 2-3 zone without much trouble. He's certainly physical enough.

But he picked the right sport. The nation's third-leading tackler last year (11.9 per game), this year Jones is *Lindy's* pre-season Defensive Player of the Year.

Basketball is a pastime for Jones, not a vocation. He broke his hand during his junior year at Cincinnati Moeller High and gave up the sport to concentrate on football. The next year Moeller won the state basketball championship. Oh, well.

"It was (disappointing) but at the same time I was happy for my school," Jones said. "I was coming here; I was committed here. I had my scholarship. It all worked out."

It worked out to the point that Jones is the next great Big Ten linebacker in an

Photo by Chuck Rydlewski/icon SMI

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

school," said Gil Brandt, an analyst for NFL.com.

"I'm glad he did; it's in his best interest. At linebacker you learn to play by repetition. He'll get a lot more reps. He makes a lot of tackles. He makes a lot of tackles within a couple of yards of the line of scrimmage. A lot of guys make tackles, but they're eight yards down the field."

There was a paradox to 2009. The Spartans went to a bowl game, but finished below .500 (6-7). Jones broke out, but the season could have been a lot better. Michigan State lost five games by eight points or less. The whole thing was overshadowed by mass player

suspensions following a Nov. 22 on-campus fight.

"I had just had dinner with my parents," Jones, a team captain, said of that incident.

"I had no clue about any of that. I really feel like I could have stopped it, I have no doubt in my mind. They made some mistakes and are probably still paying for it. We want them back, probably still need them back.

"But I wasn't happy about it, definitely. It leaves no room for error."

Eleven players were suspended for the bowl game. Five had been reinstated as of mid-April. The incident served to distract

from one the best defensive seasons in Michigan State history. As part of his 154 tackles, Jones had 14.0 tackles for loss and nine sacks.

Still, Michigan State's defense has miles to go. Jones has one more year to correct a 'D' that surrendered more than 1,600 yards in the final three games. The Big Ten's best defensive player says he wants to work on his "passing game."

"I'm very disappointed that I have no interceptions," he said. "I want to be a scoring factor on defense."

The sad part is, until Michigan State breaks through, he might have to be.

Dennis Dodd is a senior writer for CBSSports.com covering college football.

DEFENSE



Adrian Clayborn



Greg Romeus



Stephen Paea



Jared Crick



Greg Jones



Von Miller

FIRST TEAM

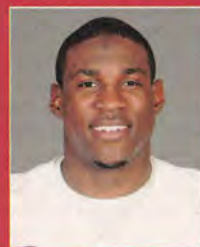
Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DL	Adrian Clayborn	6-3	282	Sr.	Iowa
DL	Greg Romeus	6-6	270	Sr.	Pittsburgh
DL	Stephen Paea	6-1	311	Sr.	Oregon State
DL	Jared Crick	6-6	285	Jr.	Nebraska
LB	Greg Jones	6-1	228	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	Von Miller	6-3	240	Sr.	Texas A&M
LB	Quan Sturdivant	6-2	230	Jr.	North Carolina
CB	Patrick Peterson	6-1	211	Jr.	LSU
CB	Prince Amukamara	6-1	205	Sr.	Nebraska
S	Rahim Moore	6-1	195	Jr.	UCLA
S	DeAndre McDaniel	6-1	210	Sr.	Clemson
P	Drew Butler	6-2	203	Jr.	Georgia

SECOND TEAM

Pos	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
DL	Robert Quinn	6-5	260	Jr.	North Carolina
DL	Cameron Heyward	6-5	288	Sr.	Ohio State
DL	Jeremy Beal	6-3	261	Sr.	Oklahoma
DL	Allen Bailey	6-4	288	Sr.	Miami
LB	Travis Lewis	6-2	232	Sr.	Oklahoma
LB	Dont'a Hightower	6-4	260	Jr.	Alabama
LB	Luke Kuechly	6-3	225	So.	Boston College
CB	Kendric Burney	5-9	180	Sr.	North Carolina
CB	Stephon Gilmore	6-1	188	So.	South Carolina
S	Mark Barron	6-2	210	Jr.	Alabama
S	Tyler Sash	6-1	210	Jr.	Iowa
P	Chas Henry	6-3	222	Sr.	Florida



Quan Sturdivant



Patrick Peterson



Prince Amukamara



Rahim Moore



DeAndre McDaniel



Drew Butler

PLAYER RATINGS

QUARTERBACKS

Washington's Locker Hopes to Turn Hype into Wins

Jake Locker has heard the hype forever. It's time, he says, to win a few games.

The Heisman Trophy? Becoming the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft? Well, first things first, and the first thing is leading the University of Washington football program back from the dead.

Rarely has any quarterback whose team is 8-20 in games he has started been as highly regarded and highly promoted as Washington's senior. Suffice to say through his years with the Huskies, the hype surrounding Locker has far surpassed his team's on-field success.

So much for hype.

There have been a variety of reasons for UW's struggles in that time, including several injuries to Locker. Still, the hype had gone national, and when draft gurus pegged him late last season as a plausible, if not probable, first pick in the 2010 draft, it became conventional wisdom that coach Steve Sarkisian would need to coach up a new quarterback.

So much for conventional wisdom.

Locker's immediate decision to spurn the NFL Draft to return for one more year prompted an entire region of college football fans to gasp (the purple-clad gasp was one of glee; of other colors, not so much).

His decision to stay made him one of the most popular Huskies ever. In the past three seasons, it seems that every positive moment of Husky football has had No. 10 in the mix.

If he leads the team to even marginal success in 2010 — such as a trip to the Sun Bowl — then Locker will become larger than life.

And if he/they achieve the goals that have Dawg fans hyperventilating on sports radio? Never mind all that ... he just wants to show that last year's victory over USC, and season-ending rout of Cal, are what he and his teammates *have* become, rather than isolated glances of what they *could* become.

"We're going to have a really good football team," he said. "When I was at home, sitting and watching all the bowl games, I thought it would be something fun to do, something you should experience in your lifetime."

And that's a goal that seems reasonable enough, considering the way the 2009 season ended, when Locker and the Huskies staged a performance UW fans imagined would be commonplace when he arrived in 2006.

He's got the arm. He's got the feet. He's got the size. He's worked on his touch.

And he ended his junior season by drilling through California for 325 yards of total offense and five touchdowns in Washington's most impressive victory in years, a 42-10 thrashing of the Bears.

Rather than leading Locker to the NFL, as seemed so obvious at the time, he said it only further convinced him to return. Why not have that much fun a bunch more times in 2010?

"We have the opportunity to have an explosive offense," he said. He also liked the idea of having another year to work with Sarkisian, who groomed Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart as an assistant at USC.

Locker has always been physically gifted (he's 6-3, 230, and very fast). But he arrived at UW raw in the nuances of playing quarterback.

Former coach Tyrone Willingham shifted the offense to almost completely revolve around Locker's talents. Sarkisian went the other way, deciding to make Locker fit his offense. There were still elements of the zone read, but for much of last season, Locker was largely a drop-back quarterback.

Sarkisian, however, loosened the reins on Locker's running in the last two games — he had 171 yards rushing combined against WSU and Cal.

UW coaches said Locker's biggest improvement in the spring came in reading defenses, something he'd rarely been called on to do before coming to UW.

Continuing to fine tune his passing form was another spring goal for Locker, especially passing on the move. His legs make him one of the most dangerous threats in football, but his big ticket will be to burn defenses with passes while he's on the run — something he's done less frequently than one might think.

"We continue to work on his feet and his delivery and just make sure that everything is flowing smoothly," quarterbacks coach Doug Nussmeier said.

Flowing right into a bowl game, Locker hopes.

— Bob Condotta



Photo by Dave Sizer

JAKE LOCKER

TOP QUARTERBACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Kellen Moore Lefty is 26-1 as a starter and had only three INTS in 431 attempts last year.	Jr.	Boise State
2.	Ryan Mallett Eager to get another shot at Alabama after going 12 of 35 last season.	Jr.	Arkansas
3.	Jake Locker Playmaker has wheels ... and Steve Sarkisian is making him a passer.	Sr.	Washington
4.	Case Keenum Aims for third 5,000-yard season and NCAA career passing record.	Sr.	Houston
5.	Terrelle Pryor Was Rose Bowl a prelude to greatness or just one of those things?	Jr.	Ohio State
6.	Andrew Luck Strong arm, mobility, intelligence ... on the brink of a big season.	So.	Stanford
7.	Jerrod Johnson Last two games of 2009: 852 total yards vs. Texas and Georgia.	Sr.	Texas A&M
8.	Greg McElroy No need to look at the stats. You know you want him on your team.	Sr.	Alabama
9.	Joshua Nesbitt Third-year starter knows all the tricks in the tricky triple-option.	Sr.	Georgia Tech
10.	Christian Ponder Was having huge 2009 season before being injured in ninth game.	Sr.	Florida State
11.	Blaine Gabbert Tough kid who played through ankle injury in '09; ready to blossom.	Jr.	Missouri
12.	Andy Dalton Savvy game manager; should reach 10,000 career passing yards.	Sr.	TCU
13.	Colin Kaepernick Look for another year of 2,000 yards passing, 1,000 yards rushing.	Sr.	Nevada
14.	Tyrod Taylor ACC leader in efficiency; waits for his spots and then strikes deep.	Sr.	Virginia Tech
15.	Landry Jones Pressed into action and passed for 3,198 yards with 26 touchdowns.	So.	Oklahoma
16.	Russell Wilson 2008 All-ACC QB threw for 31 touchdowns and 3,027 yards last year.	Jr.	NC State
17.	Robert Griffin Should be back to Freshman All-America form after 2009 ACL injury.	So.	Baylor
18.	Jacory Harris Huge potential but has to cut down on his 17 INTs from last season.	Jr.	Miami
19.	Ricky Dobbs Navy's best run-pass quarterback of the triple-option era.	Sr.	Navy
20.	Scott Tolzien Surprised in '09: 64.3 percent accuracy, UW-record 211 completions.	Sr.	Wisconsin
21.	Matt Barkley Building off big bowl game and can explore more of playbook in '10.	So.	USC
22.	Ricky Stanzi Good leader; 18-4 as starter; isn't afraid to take his shots down field.	Sr.	Iowa
23.	Nick Foles Sophomore year suggests Arizona has found a tall, franchise QB.	Jr.	Arizona
24.	Tom Savage Freshman year suggests Rutgers has found a tall, franchise QB.	So.	Rutgers
25.	Zach Collaros Looked like the real deal in four starts for injured Tony Pike in '09.	Jr.	Cincinnati

PLAYER RATINGS

RUNNING BACKS

One Number Motivates Pittsburgh's Lewis

Dion Lewis is all about the number 1. Others want to talk about other numbers. He has lots of numbers people like to talk about. Numbers like:

- 1,799 (yards)
- 325 (carries)
- 17 (touchdowns)
- 5.5 (yards per carry)

And, then there are the numbers that also offer an inexhaustible topic for

conversation among fans and doubters alike: 5-8. Yes, as in 5-foot-8. Plenty to talk about.

Last season, Lewis eclipsed most of Pitt's freshman rushing records, including Tony Dorsett's 36-year old record for rushing yards by a freshman and LeSean McCoy's record for points scored by a freshman.

Lewis was named Big East Offensive Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year, and second-team All-American. He was the nation's third-leading rusher, carrying the Panthers to a 10-3 record and their first bowl win since 2002.

Lewis' height and his statistics are often discussed, but the only number he thinks about is "1."

That's the number of points by which the Panthers lost to Cincinnati (45-44) on the last day of last season, denying Pitt its first Big East championship of the Dave Wannstedt era.

It is that tiny margin that motivated Lewis as he spent the offseason working with Pitt's strength and conditioning staff to try to get stronger and quicker.

And it is that tiny margin that fueled his passion to spend as much of his free time as possible studying his playbook, watching film and working on ways to improve his game.

"We lost by one point; we were that close," Lewis said.

"That's one play. Maybe I could have made one play to win that game, and I know this team's goal is to make sure we don't have that feeling again. I had a good season, but I know I can be better and I know I have to improve every day and that's my focus, not anything else."

Pitt running backs coach David Walker said he quit being amazed by Lewis early last spring when it was clear he was going to win the starting job.

But even he was impressed — but not surprised — by the way Lewis approached spring and the offseason.

"Dion is Dion; he's got a great head on his shoulders; he is very grounded and he knows that nothing comes easy," Walker said.

"I think it is special when your best player — or one of your best players because we have a few really good ones — is also one of the guys who works the hardest and has the desire and focus he has. "And the best part is, he hasn't changed a bit even though he's getting all this attention."

Lewis almost didn't get to Pitt. He also had a scholarship offer from Tulane. And Miami of Ohio. And that's it.

It wasn't for a lack of trying. Lewis sent out his game tape to a number of schools and even hand-delivered a copy to Rutgers, which is less than an hour away from where he played high school football.

But the answer was always the same from the BCS-conference teams: You're too small to play tailback for us, young man.

"I heard all about my size and was always told I was too small," Lewis said, before smiling. "But I don't know, I'm the same size as a guy like Barry Sanders, and it is not like I am being asked to dunk a basketball."

As for that success, he will begin this season on the short list of prime candidates for the Heisman Trophy. Pitt's sports information department is gearing up for a potential campaign for Lewis.

"When I hear the word Heisman Trophy, I think about the greatest players who ever played college football and I just don't put myself in that category because it is such a special award," Lewis said.

"But the way I look at it is this — I don't have a chance to win that award if we don't win the Big East. It is our time, that's what I am focused on."

— Paul Zeise



DION LEWIS

Photo by Bruce L. Schwartzman

TOP RUNNING BACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Mark Ingram	Jr.	Alabama
	Emmitt Smith comparison works: Hard to bring down; keeps on going.		
2.	Dion Lewis	So.	Pitt
	Nation's top returning rusher, with 1,799 yards as a freshman.		
3.	Jacquizz Rodgers	Jr.	Oregon State
	Little guy has darted past would-be tacklers for 2,693 yards, 32 TDs.		
4.	Noel Devine	Sr.	West Virginia
	Breathtaking in the open field; surprisingly came back as a senior.		
5.	John Clay	Jr.	Wisconsin
	Jumbo-sized back is the reigning Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year.		
6.	DeMarco Murray	Sr.	Oklahoma
	Healthy and now the featured back, he'll show his first-round stuff.		
7.	LaMichael James	So.	Oregon
	Used pure speed to post six 150-yard games last season for Ducks.		
8.	Ryan Williams	So.	Virginia Tech
	As an injury replacement, set ACC freshman record with 1,655 yards.		
9.	Evan Royster	Sr.	Penn State
	Only 481 yards from breaking Curt Warner's school record (3,398).		
10.	Trent Richardson	So.	Alabama
	Makes some wonder if the Heisman winner is Bama's backfield best.		
11.	Jeff Demps	Jr.	Florida
	Can't catch him: He ran the 100 meters in 10.11 seconds this spring.		
12.	Daniel Thomas	Sr.	Kansas State
	Ex-QB was just learning RB spot last year when he gained 1,265 yards.		
13.	Kendall Hunter	Sr.	Oklahoma State
	Injury wrecked 2009. If he's the 2008 Hunter, this ranking is too low.		
14.	Montel Harris	Jr.	Boston College
	Has 13 100-yard rushing games, most among current ACC players.		
15.	Donald Buckram	Sr.	UTEP
	Broke out of a committee with a school-record 1,594 yards in 2009.		
16.	Bernard Pierce	So.	Temple
	A complete workhorse of a back who twice ran 40 times in a game.		
17.	Vai Taua	Sr.	Nevada
	Averaged 7.8 yards a carry for nation's top rushing attack in 2009.		
18.	Shane Vereen	Jr.	Cal
	Jahvid who? Vereen is just another 1,000-yard back for the Bears.		
19.	Washaun Ealey	So.	Georgia
	Just needs to duplicate his frosh second half for an entire season.		
20.	Jordan Todman	Jr.	UConn
	Had 1,188 yards in 2009 in a timeshare with departed Andre Dixon.		
21.	Baron Batch	Sr.	Texas Tech
	All-around back will get more touches in the post-Mike Leach era.		
22.	Darren Evans	So.	Virginia Tech
	Coming off injury to form hearty combo platter with Ryan Williams.		
23.	Chris Polk	So.	Washington
	With 1,000-yard season in pocket, he'll take pressure off Jake Locker.		
24.	Roy Helu	Sr.	Nebraska
	Explosive back who should have more help in the backfield this year.		
25.	Mario Fannin	Sr.	Auburn
	Moves from slot to No. 1 tailback behind a stout offensive line.		

PLAYER RATINGS

RECEIVERS

Notre Dame's Floyd Looks to Add 'Volume' to Talent

Michael Floyd didn't waste any time establishing himself as a premier college receiver when he arrived at Notre Dame in 2008. The 6-3, 220-pound native of Saint Paul, Minn., set Irish freshman receiving records for touchdowns (seven), catches (48) and yards (719) playing in 11 of 13 games. He missed the final two games of the

season with a shoulder injury.

Floyd followed that with another stellar year in 2009. He was second on the team with 44

catches for 795 and nine touchdowns ... and those numbers came despite missing five games with a broken collarbone.

Now, imagine the kind of numbers he could post in 2010 with these two things: A full season of health and new coach Brian Kelly's pass-friendly spread offense.

When Kelly was selected Notre Dame's coach on Dec. 10, he brought with him an offense that averaged 308.8 passing yards last season and puts a premium on speed. Kelly's Cincinnati team was last nationally in time of possession last season at 25:36.

"I kind of underestimated how fast it was going," Floyd said. "I think I pick it up just a little bit more every day."

Floyd lost about 10 pounds to keep up with the frantic new pace.

"The effort that is required to go through a practice here is much, much greater than what the expectations were for most of these guys in the past," offensive coordinator Charlie Molnar said.

It's a change from former coach Charlie Weis and his pro-style offense, and Floyd's adjustments continued this spring until the very end.

After spending the majority of the spring working on the perimeter, Floyd was moved to the slot for the spring game. He opened the scrimmage with a 13-yard run on a reverse and finished with two catches for 33 yards.

Kelly said moving Floyd to the slot was part of the evaluation process, and quarterback Dayne Crist said there is a lot of potential with Floyd inside. Everyone already knows what he can do on the outside with his go-up-and-get-it-skills on fade passes.

"If you have him in the slot, it's a little bit harder for teams to really roll their defense and kind of get extra guys on him, and we can move him around a little bit," Crist said. "Schematically, I'm sure Coach Kelly has got a thousand things he can do with Floyd."

If you listen to Kelly, it seems there are a thousand things the receivers still need to work on before the season begins. Kelly was still worried about the group's conditioning in the final week of spring practice.

"(Director of football strength and conditioning Paul) Longo knows those receivers just got tired too quickly for us in our offense," Kelly said. "We will work hard on that."

Floyd and the rest of the receivers need to improve more than just the physical part of the game. There are mental demands. The offense will use 20 to 25 formations ... and everyone better have them nailed down before Notre Dame opens with a home game against Purdue on Sept. 4.

"I'm just hoping that we get it all together and get all the concepts down, less mental errors, and just be able to be there for one another," Floyd said. "I'm adjusting to it, and I'm developing along with everybody else."

If Floyd quickly develops in the new system — and he should — it would go a long way in helping Notre Dame absorb the losses of quarterback Jimmy Clausen and last season's leading receiver Golden Tate. Both players were selected in the second round of the NFL Draft after bypassing their senior seasons.

"He's made a great commitment," Kelly said of Floyd. "He's got to show that he's got the volume."

And the sooner, the better.

— Tony Krausz



MICHAEL FLOYD

Photo by Joe Robbins

TOP WIDE RECEIVERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Michael Floyd Ready for a prolific year ... If Dayne Crist can get him the ball.	Jr.	Notre Dame
2.	A.J. Green Might have the same issue as Floyd; Dawgs breaking in a new QB.	Jr.	Georgia
3.	Jonathan Baldwin Still learning ... but having a 42-inch vertical and sub-4.4 speed helps.	Jr.	Pittsburgh
4.	Julio Jones His stats don't indicate the kind of impact he can have on a game.	Jr.	Alabama
5.	Ryan Broyles Basically missed a few games, still had 89 catches, 1,120 yds, 15 TDs.	Jr.	Oklahoma
6.	Vincent Brown NFL talent had 778 yards in six games before suffering hand injury.	Sr.	San Diego State
7.	DeAndre Brown Eagles' star recruit has paid off with 21 touchdowns in two seasons.	Jr.	Southern Miss
8.	James Rodgers A 1,000-yard receiver and all-around threat who is great in space.	Sr.	Oregon State
9.	Alshon Jeffrey A huge target with superstar potential in Steve Spurrier's attack.	So.	South Carolina
10.	James Cleveland Leading WR in pass-happy offense: 104 catches, 1,214 yards, 14 TDs.	Sr.	Houston
11.	Leonard Hankerson Everyone loves his potential after his breakthrough season in 2009.	Sr.	Miami
12.	Keith Smith Big Ten's leading receiver last season with 91 catches for 1,100 yards.	Sr.	Purdue
13.	Greg Childs Deep threat heads up multiple good targets for QB Ryan Mallett.	Jr.	Arkansas
14.	Terrence Toliver Being 6-5, he's way up there on early draft boards for senior WRs.	Sr.	LSU
15.	Darvin Adams Most underrated receiver in the SEC.	Jr.	Auburn
16.	Donovan Varner The little guy is dangerous — 65 catches, 1,047 yards, eight TDs.	Jr.	Duke
17.	Austin Pettis Had 14 touchdown catches last season for prolific Broncos offense.	Sr.	Boise State
18.	Jermaine Kearse Big-play guy will help make Jake Locker's passing look good.	Jr.	Washington
19.	DeVier Posey Easily Terrelle Pryor's favorite target; made 60 catches last season.	Jr.	Ohio State
20.	Tandon Doss Hoosiers look to Doss (77 catches, 962 yards) and offense in 2010.	Jr.	Indiana

TOP TIGHT ENDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Kyle Rudolph Good news: Brian Kelly likes using TEs, even in spread offense.	Jr.	Notre Dame
2.	Weslye Saunders Faced competition in spring, but has too many tools not to be a factor.	Sr.	South Carolina
3.	Lance Kendricks Converted wide receiver poses plenty of athletic mismatches.	Sr.	Wisconsin
4.	Luke Stocker Had 29 catches last season to complement standout receivers.	Sr.	Tennessee
5.	D.J. Williams Semifinalist for 2008 Mackey Award; 93 catches in past two years.	Sr.	Arkansas

PLAYER RATINGS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

One Pouncey is Plenty on Gators' Offensive Line

Mike Pouncey glanced to his left.
Then to his right.
Then behind him.

But no matter where the senior center looked on the first day of Florida's spring practice, he didn't see his twin brother Maurkice.

TOP CENTERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Mike Pouncey Follows brother Maurkice into center spot and, likely, the first round.	Sr.	Florida
2.	Kristopher O'Dowd Knee problems wrecked 2009 season; all the potential still there.	Sr.	USC
3.	Jake Kirkpatrick One of six finalists last season for Rimington Trophy.	Sr.	TCU
4.	Ben Jones Second-team All-SEC as a sophomore, which is no easy trick.	Jr.	Georgia
5.	Sean Bedford One of the best "walk-on makes good" stories in college football.	Sr.	Georgia Tech
6.	Ryan McMahon After redshirting as a freshman, hasn't missed a start at FSU.	Sr.	Florida State
7.	Ryan Pugh Began Auburn career at tackle, but this is his natural position.	Sr.	Auburn
8.	Colin Baxter Has made 37 consecutive starts, including a stint at guard in 2007.	Sr.	Arizona

TOP GUARDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Rodney Hudson An athletic guard who pulled down some All-America honors in 2009.	Sr.	Florida State
2.	Stefen Wisniewski All-conference center in 2009 back at right guard, where he was in '08.	Sr.	Penn State
3.	Justin Boren Ex-Michigan Wolverine is all-Buckeye, All-Big Ten ... All-American?	Sr.	Ohio State
4.	John Moffitt Helps form imposing left side with senior LT Gabe Carimi.	Sr.	Wisconsin
5.	Andrew Jackson Typical of Fresno State: All-WAC OL also has blocked three kicks.	Sr.	Fresno State
6.	Stephen Schilling Was rated the No. 2 high school guard by Rivals.com after '05 season.	Sr.	Michigan
7.	Zach Hurd A mainstay who helped UConn have two 1,000-yard rushers in '09.	Sr.	UConn
8.	Bryant Browning Excellent run blocker for standout group of Ohio State interior OLs.	Sr.	Ohio State

TOP TACKLES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Gabe Carimi If he lives up to billing, he'll be the No. 1 OT on NFL draft boards.	Sr.	Wisconsin
2.	Anthony Castonzo Vying to become BC's third first-round offensive lineman since 2002.	Sr.	Boston College
3.	Nate Solder Former TE has intriguing agility for a lineman of his height (6-9).	Sr.	Colorado
4.	Matt Reynolds Father (Lance) was a BYU OL. So, too, were brothers Lance and Dallas.	Jr.	BYU
5.	Marcus Cannon Didn't allow a sack from the right side last year; now gets left side.	Sr.	TCU
6.	Jason Pinkston Pitt's skill players get the glory, but he's been key to Panthers' rise.	Sr.	Pitt
7.	Nate Potter At LT, the key part of a line that allowed only five sacks last season.	Jr.	Boise State
8.	Lee Ziemba Put any of five other SEC guys here and it would be hard to argue.	Sr.	Auburn

For the first time since the two began playing Pop Warner football in Lakeland, Fla., at age 6, Mike is the only Pouncey on the field.

"It's ... weird," Mike Pouncey said.

"But I've been with these guys on the offensive line here for three or four years now. I feel like they are my brothers, so they'll be there for me."

His real brother isn't there because he chose to leave Florida for the NFL after his junior season. Maurkice Pouncey tried to convince his brother to do the same, but Mike Pouncey wasn't sure he wanted to leave. The 6-4, 310-pounder surprised everyone by choosing to spend another year in Gainesville to improve his draft position.

"I was encouraging him to leave," Mike Pouncey said. "At first, he was contemplating on whether he wanted to come back or not, but I think it was the best move for him and our family. He did the best thing for him."

"He knew I was going to get drafted ahead of him. I just wanted to go higher than I was going to go. We didn't argue about it. I told him how I felt and he told me how he felt. That's how we left it."

As it turned out, Maurkice was the 18th pick in the first round to the Pittsburgh Steelers, the first center selected. Mike enters his senior season as the top prospect at center because he did make one offseason change.

He moved from right guard — where he has started every game for the past two seasons — to the middle. Centers are generally regarded higher than guards in terms of their draft stock. So spending a year proving he can play center will boost his pro potential.

It'll help the Gators, too.

Pouncey was a first-team All-SEC selection and second-team Associated Press All-American in 2009 after helping Florida lead the SEC in total offense (457.86 yards per game) and finish second in rushing (221.8 yards per game). Four regular ball-carriers averaged 6.5 yards per carry or better.

Pouncey will anchor an offensive line in 2010 that has four returning starters. So far his transition to center has been smooth.

He and quarterback John Brantley worked almost daily in the summer on under-center snaps — something the Gators rarely used in the past three years — and the shotgun snaps weren't any trouble except for the first few days of spring practice.

"Mike has a great future ahead of him," offensive coordinator/offensive line coach Steve Addazio said, calling Pouncey "the top returning offensive lineman in America."

"Coming back just gives him another opportunity to grow as a player and as a leader and will help him increase his positional versatility."

It also gives him a chance to get used to not being with his twin brother, although that was something he would have had to deal with in the NFL eventually. The adjustment has been smooth, and Mike Pouncey is noticing at least one benefit now that Maurkice is gone.

"Everybody calls me Mike now, so I guess that's the best thing about me coming back," he said. "Everybody does say, 'We finally know you apart.' They always just called us together, 'Twin' or 'Pouncey.'"

"We were always together anyway, but they call me Mike now."

— Michael DiRocco



MIKE POUNCEY

Photo by Tomasso DeRosa

PLAYER RATINGS

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Heyward Hammering Down a Legacy at Ohio State

Cameron Heyward started as a freshman at Ohio State. He has dominated at times in his three years on the defensive line, but he bypassed the chance to be a high pick in the NFL Draft to return to the Buckeyes for one reason.

Call it a No. 1 reason.

"I'm definitely happy with what I've done so far, but I'm not satisfied,"

Heyward said. "I still want a national championship. I think everyone on this team does. We've been there before, but there's still a lot to accomplish."

The son of the late NFL player Craig "Ironhead" Heyward, Cameron begins his senior year following in his father's footsteps. Craig was an All-American running back at Pitt before becoming a first-round pick of the New Orleans Saints in 1988.

Cameron was a Lombardi Award nominee last season and is a strong candidate to finish this year as an All-American. If all goes as expected, he's a likely first-round pick in the 2011 NFL Draft.

Heyward's mix of speed and strength makes him the latest in a long line of great Ohio State defensive ends.

He started as a freshman on the Ohio State team that lost to LSU in the national championship game three years ago, ironically on the same field where his father starred. He celebrated that week by walking around New Orleans with a T-shirt donning his father's face. Craig Heyward had died of a brain tumor two years earlier.

Since then, Cameron has become the latest in a long line of big-time defensive linemen the school has produced, following recent players such as Mike Vabel, Will Smith, Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson and Vernon Gholston.

Defensive coordinator Jim Heacock, who previously served as the team's defensive line coach for nine seasons, was addressing a group of high school coaches this spring when he pointed to a group of defensive linemen huddled together and declared: "I want to go on the record and say that this will be the best defensive line to ever play at Ohio State."

Heyward led the defense with 6.5 sacks last season and ranked second with nine tackles for loss. He has experience at tackle in college, but settled in nicely last season at end.

Other defensive ends have been faster around the edge, but Heyward's strength is his ability to overmatch opposing tackles and collapse the pocket. He has 12 career sacks in 33 starts, but Heacock is expecting more from him as a senior.

"Coach Tressel does a great job with our seniors and 'When it's your time, you have to step up,'" Heacock said.

"Cam's done a good job of playing and working hard and doing all those things, but now he realizes with all the seniors gone, now it's his turn. He's got to step up and do the things that Coach Tressel expects him to do."

He'll have help in returning tackle Dexter Larimore, who will be a three-year starter. The rest of the rotation will be made up of first-time starters. The Buckeyes like to rotate about eight linemen throughout a game, but this season they will have to do it with youth.

Heyward will need help from his teammates in order to avoid constant double teams, something he avoided last season with the presence of Thad Gibson on the other end. With Gibson gone to the NFL, Heyward is looking for more help up front.

"I have to be more vocal," he said. "We have a lot of young guys on the team, but it's time for them to step up. We have a lot of boys, but it's time to be men."

— Jason Lloyd

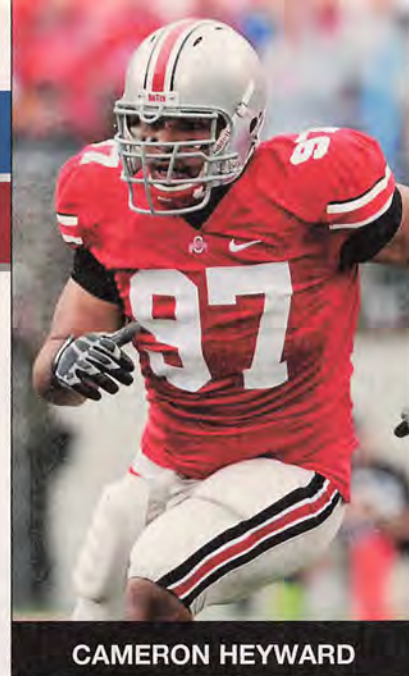


Photo by Jamie Sabau/Getty Images

TOP DEFENSIVE ENDS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Adrian Clayborn A 283-pound force who had 11.5 sacks and 20 tackles for loss in 2009.	Sr.	Iowa
2.	Greg Romeus Teams with Jabaal Sheard to give Pitt two NFL-quality pass rushers.	Sr.	Pittsburgh
3.	Robert Quinn Another Julius Peppers? Seems to spend as much time in the backfield.	Jr.	North Carolina
4.	Cameron Heyward Bull-strong end has all the right measurables for the NFL scouts.	Sr.	Ohio State
5.	Jeremy Beal The "Real Beal" has made 34.5 tackles for loss in past two seasons.	Sr.	Oklahoma
6.	Ryan Kerrigan With a quieter profile than other Big Ten stars, had 13 sacks last year.	Sr.	Purdue
7.	Marcel Dareus BCS title game hero will be one of the season-long stars for Bama D.	Jr.	Alabama
8.	Kenny Rowe Pac-10 sack champ (11.5) rounded up Terrelle Pryor thrice in Rose Bowl.	Sr.	Oregon
9.	Aldon Smith Pure pass rusher set school record with 11.5 sacks as a freshman.	So.	Missouri
10.	Bruce Miller The C-USA Defensive Player of the Year last year; 27 career sacks.	Sr.	UCF
11.	Sam Acho Now becomes the lead attack dog in an always-good Texas front.	Sr.	Texas
12.	Pernell McPhee 2008 was a great year for SEC DL ... and he made the second-team.	Sr.	Mississippi State

TOP DEFENSIVE TACKLES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Stephen Paea An explosive interior player with all kinds of raw strength.	Sr.	Oregon State
2.	Jared Crick He'll still be ultra-productive, even without Suh by his side.	Jr.	Nebraska
3.	Marvin Austin Physical gifts never been a question; does he put it all together?	Sr.	North Carolina
4.	Allen Bailey Tackle or end? He can and will do both, and can be a star either way.	Sr.	Miami
5.	Jerrell Powe Combined with DE Kentrell Lockett for 22 tackles for loss in 2009.	Sr.	Ole Miss
6.	Jurrell Casey The next in line of great USC DTs (Moala, Ellis, Patterson, Cody).	Jr.	USC
7.	Karl Klug Nice surprise last season: 13 tackles for loss, four pass break-ups.	Sr.	Iowa
8.	Jarvis Jenkins Smartly trimmed some weight in the offseason after hitting 325.	Sr.	Clemson
9.	Drake Nevis Ready for a big year after making 50 tackles in a backup role in 2009.	Sr.	LSU
10.	Lawrence Guy Athletic 300-pounder posted 17 tackles for loss in first two seasons.	Jr.	Arizona State
11.	Ollie Ogbu Solid player stepping out of the shadow of departed DT Jared Odrick.	Sr.	Penn State
12.	Ladi Ojiboye The complement inside to senior Cliff Matthews off the edge.	Sr.	South Carolina

PLAYER RATINGS

LINEBACKERS

Texas A&M Defense Revolves Around Miller

With his left hand, Texas A&M senior outside linebacker Von Miller reaches across his body and tugs on the shoulder of his right sleeve, pulling the T-shirt just above his right biceps.

He then folds his fingers into the palm of his right hand and rolls his arm over, revealing an intricate tattoo that covers the inner portion of his muscularly defined right forearm.

The soft-spoken, 21-year-old says he chose this particular tattoo, which

includes numerous planets within the solar system, for various reasons.

First, he says it's a daily reminder that the Earth — especially in relationship to the rest of the solar system — really is a small place. Secondly, it causes him to be reflective. "The world is yours; it is what you make it," Miller says as he glances reflectively at the image.

"One day you can be poor; the next you can be a millionaire. One day you can have plenty of problems; the next day everything seems to be going your way. It can change in an instant."

Or one day you are a struggling, tentative linebacker who is an afterthought in the rotation on a poor team — like Miller was in 2008 — and the next you are a shooting star and an All-America candidate on a team that hopes to contend for a Big 12 title.

Such is the case with the lightning-quick Miller. In two years, he's transformed his game and overhauled his image, becoming one of the premier defenders in the country. The world is no longer merely a symbol on his arm; it now appears to be at his feet.

"That guy is phenomenal," said A&M quarterback Jerrod Johnson, the Aggies marquee name on the other side of the ball.

"Really and truly I think last year he was a sack specialist. But this year, I think he has really evolved into an all-around defensive star. With us going to the 3-4 defensive alignment (under new coordinator Tim DeRuyter) and bringing in some dynamic new defensive coaches, I think Von is in store for an unprecedented year.

"He is probably the best athlete on our team, and he is being put in a position to make plays like never before."

As a hybrid defensive end/outside linebacker, the explosive, multi-talented Miller led the nation last year in sacks with 17. By comparison, the 2008 Aggies produced just 16 sacks as a team.

Heading into his senior season, Miller has 22.5 career sacks, which is already ahead of marquee names in Texas A&M history like William Thomas, Sam Adams, Alex Morris and Keith Mitchell.

After his stellar 2009 season, Miller seriously considered skipping his senior season and entering the NFL Draft. But he also has an extensive knowledge of Texas A&M's proud defensive past, and as he went through spring drills, Miller said he was happy with his decision to return.

He loves the new defensive coaches — DeRuyter, defensive line coach Terrell Williams, outside linebackers coach Nick Toth and inside linebackers coach Dat Nguyen (yes, *that* Dat Nguyen, one of the storied names in Aggie history).

He also believes he can help in the renaissance of the Wrecking Crew, returning A&M to its proud defensive past.

"In my decision to come back, I really thought about my brothers out here — my teammates — and being with them as we rebuild this program," he said.

"I would have felt bad to leave my guys early. We are in this together, and I just wanted to show everybody that I am a team player who is focused on team goals. These guys out here can count on me for life. I am with them no matter what battle they may face. Without me coming back, it would have been harder to turn this thing around right away.

"But with Jerrod, me, (wide receiver Jeff) Fuller, (running back Christine Michael) and several other guys, we have the star power we need. We have the playmakers to make a difference."

— Rusty Burson



Photo by John Williamson

VON MILLER

TOP INSIDE LINEBACKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Greg Jones Most deserving of title "Tackling Machine" — 359 overall, 36.5 for loss.	Sr.	Michigan State
2.	Dont'a Hightower Coming back from injury, could be another Rolando McClain for Tide.	Jr.	Alabama
3.	Luke Kuechly ACC Defensive Rookie of Year will play outside if Mark Herzlich returns.	So.	Boston College
4.	Alex Wujciak All-ACC performer put up more than 130 tackles in 2008 and 2009.	Sr.	Maryland
5.	Mike Mohamed More aggressive scheme this year for Cal and Pac-10's leading tackler.	Sr.	Cal
6.	Vontaze Burfict If he cuts out the personal fouls, he could be No. 1 on this list in '11.	So.	Arizona State
7.	Carmen Messina Nation's leading tackler (162) last season; twice had 19 stops in a game.	Jr.	New Mexico
8.	Josh Byrnes Had 104 tackles, and deftly filled passing lanes, in first year as starter.	Sr.	Auburn
9.	Casey Matthews Smart, instinctive player leads the Pac-10's best linebacker group.	Sr.	Oregon
10.	Tank Carder TCU's top tackler equally fine in getting pressure or messing up passes.	Jr.	TCU
11.	Kelvin Sheppard Sure-tackling force is the emotional hub of the Tigers' defense.	Sr.	LSU
12.	Manti Te'o Improvement will come exponentially for defense's centerpiece.	So.	Notre Dame

TOP OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Von Miller 17 sacks in '09. Said A&M assistant: "Athletically, he's freakish."	Sr.	Texas A&M
2.	Quan Sturdivant Became the first all-conference linebacker at UNC since 1997.	Sr.	North Carolina
3.	Travis Lewis His 253 tackles in his first two years will get him deep into OU books.	Jr.	Oklahoma
4.	Bruce Carter A bit more rangy than Sturdivant; both can make plays in open field.	Sr.	North Carolina
5.	Akeem Ayers As athletic as 254-pound linebackers come; scored 3 TDs last season.	Jr.	UCLA
6.	Mason Foster Back at an OLB spot, just like 2008, when he led the Pac-10 in tackles.	Sr.	Washington
7.	Justin Houston Is going to be a huge playmaker off the edge in new 3-4 scheme.	Jr.	Georgia
8.	Ross Homan Was leading tackler, second-team all-league, for Rose Bowl champs.	Sr.	Ohio State
9.	Lawrence Wilson All-Big East after a season with 140 tackles, including 11 for loss.	Sr.	UConn
10.	Brian Duncan Will be a bigger force this year on the outside and as a stand-up end.	Sr.	Texas Tech
11.	Brandon Hicks Needs to help replenish lost sacks from star DEs; had 6.5 last season.	Sr.	Florida
12.	J.T. Thomas 2009 All-Big East player who is WV's playmaker from the weak side.	Sr.	West Virginia

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PLAYER RATINGS

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Moore Taking the Lead for UCLA, No Foolin'

There is a time for work and a time for play, and Rahim Moore has chosen one over the other.

The happy-go-lucky guy is gone, Moore's bright smile replaced by a scowl, his guffaw replaced by a growl. The UCLA junior free safety does not merrily walk on Spaulding Field any longer.

He stalks the turf as if it cursed his mother, hunting the ball, the oppo-

nent, the coach, anyone in his path.

After leading the nation with 10 interceptions last season — the most in FBS since 1993 — Moore wanted 100. A thousand.

He wanted them, and he did not get them, he only got 10, the most in the country, and he is still not happy about that.

"Rahim is always going to be a goofball, although he has humbled himself," said UCLA running back Johnathan Franklin, Moore's roommate and teammate at Dorsey High in Los Angeles.

"His maturity and growth as a man and an athlete, his understanding that this is a business — he understands he has the opportunity to take over. This is our year; this is our season. It's time to change from the playful person he once was into a man and a leader. It's time to take control."

And Moore is all about control.

Control of the ball, control of the team, control of his destiny.

He studies film for hours on end, and when he studies film, he studies film. He charts with his mind, graphs with his hand, stands up and back-pedals in his living room. He is transported onto Lambeau Field on a cold December afternoon, his breath frozen and the only thing between victory and defeat floating in the air, ready to be snatched away.

"He's starting to understand how gifted he is," Franklin said.

"He's the type of guy who when we're all done after practice, all tired, he's still watching film. The other day, I saw him studying Sean Taylor and Ed Reed at home. He's becoming a student of the game, a coach out there. He can coach his own position.

"Now he knows what the defensive line is doing, what the corners are doing, what the linebackers are doing."

With so few defenders returning for the Bruins, he'll need to. The Bruins don't have a defense, they have a daycare.

UCLA must replace not only Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year Brian Price, but more than half of the defense. Gone are all-conference cornerback Alterraun Verner and linebacker Reggie Carter. Bye-bye, Bosworth brothers, Kyle the linebacker and Corey the end. Sayonara, defensive tackle Jerzy Siewierski.

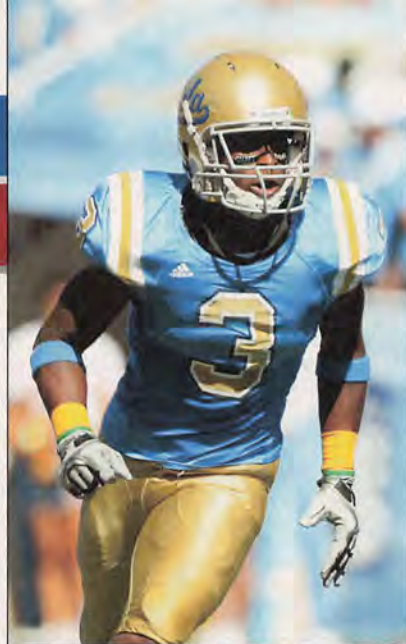
Moore is the bridge between the present and the past, taking Verner's cues by working with sophomore cornerbacks Sheldon Price and Aaron Hester, filling Carter's shoes as the mouthpiece of the defense, even giving pointers to new junior linebackers Steve Sloan and Sean Westgate.

"My role is not only to worry about myself, but to share my wisdom and knowledge with those guys," Moore said. "I once was in Sheldon's shoes. I've been run through. I've been dipped on. I've been beaten for touchdowns. I had to learn; I had to get put on. Now I'm a big dog, and I'm gonna show 'em what a big dog does."

He has the bark, and with those 10 interceptions, he clearly has the bite. With 13 for his career — including three during his freshman season, when he became the first Bruin rookie position player since 2001 to start every game — Moore has his eyes set on Kenny Easley's team record 19. For Moore, that's not enough. One hundred, maybe. Even a thousand.

And once he gets them, he'll finally be able to laugh again. All the way to the bank.

— Jon Gold



RAHIM MOORE

Photo by Charles Baus/Icon SMI

TOP CORNERBACKS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Patrick Peterson	Jr.	LSU Who doesn't love a 6-1 corner who can shut down the SEC's best WRs?
2.	Prince Amukamara	Sr.	Nebraska His five INTs and 11 pass break-ups were just scratching the surface.
3.	Kendric Burney	Sr.	North Carolina 38 games of starting experience and dangerous after any INT.
4.	Stephon Gilmore	So.	South Carolina Remarkable athlete who likely will make highlights on offense, too.
5.	Brandon Harris	Jr.	Miami All-ACC as sophomore; 15 pass break-ups ranked second nationally.
6.	Ras-I Dowling	Sr.	Virginia A darling of early mock drafts because of size (6-2) and high ceiling.
7.	Aaron Williams	Jr.	Texas Part of UT's three-headed monster at CB, all with pro potential.
8.	Janoris Jenkins	Jr.	Florida Others might hit harder, but for pure coverage, he's your guy.
9.	Rashad Carmichael	Sr.	Virginia Tech Worthy of following in impressive Tech footsteps at boundary corner.
10.	Curtis Brown	Sr.	Texas Picked off just one pass last season, but broke up 15 others.
11.	Trevin Wade	Jr.	Arizona Barely played as a freshman, but already has nine career INTs.
12.	Reggie Rembert	Sr.	Air Force Leader of stingy pass defense that shut down Houston in bowl game.

TOP SAFETIES

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Rahim Moore	Jr.	UCLA Not just dumb luck that he's always around the ball (10 INTs in 2009).
2.	DeAndre McDaniel	Sr.	Clemson Eight interceptions last season and first-team All-America status.
3.	Mark Barron	Jr.	Alabama Tide D has only two returning starters; good thing he's one of them.
4.	Tyler Sash	Jr.	Iowa Big-play guy already has school-record 350 yards off interceptions.
5.	Deunta Williams	Sr.	North Carolina Enters season with 38 consecutive starts and 12 career interceptions.
6.	Ahmad Black	Sr.	Florida Not the biggest or fastest, but definitely one of the smartest.
7.	Will Hill	Jr.	Florida More athletic than teammate Ahmad Black, with bigger pro potential.
8.	Robert Sands	Jr.	West Virginia Free safety in standout secondary; led Big East in passes defended.
9.	Quinton Carter	Sr.	Oklahoma Second-team All-Big 12 player who was second on OU with 80 stops.
10.	Tejay Johnson	Sr.	TCU The new leader in TCU secondary after the loss of two standouts CBs.
11.	Trent Hunter	Jr.	Texas A&M Hoping to make read-and-react big plays as Aggies try more zone.
12.	Janzen Jackson	So.	Tennessee A star in the making and a building block for new coach Derek Dooley.

PLAYER RATINGS

ALL PURPOSE

Always Special, Can Broyles Become the Specialest

The Oklahoma Sooners first learned Ryan Broyles had the makings of something special in 2007 in the days leading up to the Fiesta Bowl.

Broyles, play-acting as West Virginia quarterback Pat White on the scout team, sliced up OU's defense. Play after play.

"He basically did what the real Pat White did to us," former OU tight end Jermaine

Gresham said, alluding to White dicing up the Sooners for 150 yards rushing in a 48-28 WVU victory. "That boy is cold. A ballplayer."

Three years later, Broyles continues to be a ballplayer.

And now he's got a chance to become one of the most prolific ballplayers ever to pass through Norman.

As a sophomore last season, despite missing two games with a fractured shoulder blade, Broyles set a school record with 89 receptions and tied Mark Clayton's OU record with 15 touchdown receptions (second-most of any receiver in the country).

Broyles was also a handful for the opposition on special teams. Using his Pat White-like quickness, he was third nationally in punt return average (15.9).

"I've always set my sights high from the first time I got on the field," Broyles said.

"I'm not just competing against the guys on the field, I'm competing nationwide. I think that's what better me. It's not just looking at this little circle that I'm in right now. You have to look at the bigger picture."

In the Sun Bowl against Stanford, Broyles delivered one of the top postseason performances in Sooner history. He caught 13 passes for 156 yards and an OU bowl record three touchdowns.

Broyles added a pivotal 42-yard punt return in the third quarter, setting up a DeMarco Murray 1-yard touchdown plunge that put the Sooners up by a touchdown, and up for good.

"For a guy that's a little smaller in stature, he is really competitive and has a lot of emotion and passion for the game," coach Bob Stoops said of the 5-11, 178-pound Broyles. "He also has those moves to make people miss him."

Nowhere was that more evident than during OU's regular-season finale against Bedlam rival Oklahoma State.

The Sooners, coming off one of the worst losses in the Stoops era — a 41-13 rocking at Texas Tech — desperately needed a jolt.

Broyles provided that spark. He hauled in nine passes for 103 yards to ignite a previously dormant Sooner offense.

But it was his play on special teams that proved to be the difference. His 59-yard punt return in the first quarter changed the field position of the game for good. And then his 87-yard punt return in the fourth quarter proved to be the play of the day, if not the season.

After watching a 67-yard punt bounce over his head, Broyles picked up the ball at his own 13. He found little room on the left, so he cut across the field to the right, out-running OSU's coverage team. He shook the only Cowboy in his way, the punter, before dashing away for the exclamation score as OU rolled, 27-0.

Broyles' 316 all-purpose yards that game were the third most in school history.

"He is really talented with his quickness and his ability to make big plays and make people miss after the catch," Stoops said. "The guy is something."

Broyles appreciates being mentioned among the top playmakers in college football, but it's hardly satisfying to him. He knows he could be a little stronger. A little faster. And capable of making just a few more plays.

"I challenge Ryan not only to be the best here, but the best around," said wide receivers coach Jay Norvell. "And I think that takes a special sort of self-discipline and self-motivation. That's where he's kind of at right now. It's not easy. It's a challenge. But he's embracing it. And making strides every single day."

That kind of drive could provide quite the encore in his junior season.

Said Broyles: "I still have things I want to work on. That's what I'm doing this offseason. I want to become the complete player."

"I want to be the best."

— Jake Trotter



Photo by John Williamson

RYAN BROYLES

TOP KICKERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Kai Forbath Groza winner has made 37 in a row inside 50; also deadly from 50-plus.	Sr.	UCLA
2.	Blair Walsh Was 20 of 22 on field goals, including 11 of 12 from 40 and beyond.	Jr.	Georgia
3.	Grant Ressel Well, he did miss one: Set NCAA mark for accuracy (26 of 27).	Jr.	Missouri
4.	Alex Henery Set a school record with 24 FGs (was 4 for 4 in Big 12 title game).	Sr.	Nebraska
5.	Matt Boshier All-ACC kicker is 32 of 36 on FGs in the past two seasons, with range.	Sr.	Miami
6.	Thomas Weber 2007 Groza Award winner has to put injury-plagued 2009 behind him.	Sr.	Arizona State
7.	Kevin Goessling Only missed once in 16 attempts and was 2 for 2 from 50-plus.	Jr.	Fresno State
8.	Wes Byrum Fourth-year starter has three game-winning field goals to his credit.	Sr.	Auburn

TOP PUNTERS

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	Drew Butler Out-kicked everyone else in college by more than 2 yards (48.05 avg.)	Jr.	Georgia
2.	Chas Henry Excels at placement and can boom 'em when the situation demands.	Sr.	Florida
3.	Tress Way Helped the Sooners finish fifth in net punting at 40.27 per attempt.	So.	Oklahoma
4.	Derek Epperson Bumped his season average to 44.8 yards last year.	Sr.	Baylor
5.	Bryan Anger In a flat-out "big leg" contest, Anger just might win it.	Jr.	Cal
6.	Quinn Sharp Averaged 45.1 yards as a freshman (four-year duel with OU's Way?)	So.	Oklahoma State
7.	Matt Boshier 42.5-yard average, plus the place-kicking, make him No. 1 PK/P.	Sr.	Miami
8.	Jeff Locke Locke and Kai Forbath rival Georgia's pair the as top kicking duo.	So.	UCLA

TOP ALL PURPOSE

RK	NAME	CLASS	COLLEGE
1.	James Rodgers Lethal on the fly sweep, a threat on kick returns and 1,000-yard WR.	Sr.	Oregon State
2.	Ryan Broyles Explosive skills on offense and special teams helped salvage season.	Jr.	Oklahoma
3.	Titus Young Career: 16 TDs by reception, seven by rush, two by kick return.	Sr.	Boise State
4.	Tyron Carrier Four kick return touchdowns to go along with 1,029 receiving yards.	Jr.	Houston
5.	Chris Owusu The kind of speed burner, deep/return threat Stanford often lacks.	Jr.	Stanford
6.	Randall Cobb Led UK in receiving, had a punt return TD and ran the "WildCobb."	Jr.	Kentucky
7.	Torrey Smith Terps' most dynamic player had 824 receiving yards, two KR scores.	Jr.	Maryland
8.	Jerrel Jernigan Sun Belt's finest? WR averaged 174.15 all-purpose yards last year.	Sr.	Troy

UNIT

RANKINGS OFFENSE

TOP 10 BACKFIELDS

1. ALABAMA

This category can be kind of tricky at times, but this year's pick is a no-brainer. We're not just looking for golden-boy quarterbacks and All-American running backs ... we're looking for both. Or something close to it. If a team just has one or the other, it's not going to make our list.

The Tide, of course, has both.

Having the Heisman Trophy winner is a pretty good start. Mark Ingram, only a junior, gave Alabama its first stiff-armed trophy and now will be looking for two. One problem: Sophomore Trent Richardson is so good that he'll command the ball and, at times, overshadow Ingram. Bad for Ingram's Heisman chances, great for the Tide.

Greg McElroy is back to direct traffic. He's efficient — only four interceptions last season in his starting debut — and Alabama will need his refuse-to-lose attitude more than ever if the Tide's defense takes some time to reload.

2. VIRGINIA TECH

If any pair of running backs in the country can challenge the Alabama duo, it's Virginia Tech's combo of Ryan Williams and Darren Evans.

Evans was a 1,000-yard back as a freshman in 2008. Williams was an even flashier 1,000-yard back — a school-record 1,655 yards, to be exact — as a freshman in 2009 after Evans blew out his knee in preseason camp.

Now, here they are, together for the first time in the same backfield. Shades of Kevin Jones and Lee Suggs from 2002 ... except these guys could be even better.

Experienced senior quarterback Tyrod Taylor picks his spots in the passing game. His 9.51 passing yards per attempt was the best number among quarterbacks who qualified for the NCAA stats.

3. TEXAS A&M

Not much quarterback Jerrod Johnson can't do. Said A&M linebacker Von Miller: "He can scramble, run you over, run around you, throw the deep ball, whatever you want." Johnson had six 300-yard passing games and, more often than not, ran for at least 50 yards. Running back Christine Michael, who was the Big 12 Offensive Freshman of the Year, and Cyrus Gray are two fine backfield options with 100-yard potential in any game.

4. OHIO STATE

Quarterback Terrelle Pryor is like having another running back, not that the Buckeyes need one. This could be the breakout year for speedy Brandon Saine, but Ohio State is flush with other possibilities, including known commodity Dan Herron and a horde of young runners that would make USC blush.



Alabama's backfield has a quarterback who has never lost a start, Greg McElroy, and a running back with a Heisman Trophy, Mark Ingram.

which is why they averaged 36 points per game last season. They wouldn't mind emphasizing the run for balance when needed, and coach Bobby Petrino can go a lot of different ways, mixing and matching from among Dennis Johnson, Broderick Green, Ronnie Wingo and Knile Davis.

8. WASHINGTON

Coach Steve Sarkisian is making sure Jake by the Lake fits into his passing offense. The second year of his experiment will bring even better results, while Locker still can scratch that itch to take off and plow a line-backer from time to time. Mostly, Chris Polk will do the running after gaining 1,113 yards as a redshirt freshman.

9. OKLAHOMA

That Landry Jones got a forced early start to his Oklahoma quarterbacking career no longer looks like such a bad thing. The Sooners have an important quarterback experience edge over rival Texas, and they have a better running back (DeMarco Murray), too.

10. NEVADA

Senior quarterback Colin Kaepernick has accounted for 100 touchdowns — 61 passing, 39 rushing. Kaepernick and the Pistol offense helped the Wolf Pack lead the nation in rushing last season, and Vai Tava (122.3 yards per game) is back for a repeat performance.

5. TCU

Senior quarterback Andy Dalton already owns most of TCU's major passing records, improving his efficiency rating and his rushing totals in his three previous years as a starter. No easy trick. Dalton, who rushed for 512 yards last season, has moved past the stage where he's thought of as a guy who just needs to avoid getting in the way and mucking things up. Sophomore tailbacks Matthew Tucker and Ed Wesley had a combined 1,314 yards last season, and freshman Ethan Grant could be the new committee member, replacing Joseph Turner.

6. HOUSTON

Senior Case Keenum is the nation's freakiest quarterback ... from a stats standpoint, at least. The numbers from last season: 492 of 700 passing for 5,671 yards and 44 touchdowns. No reason why those should change much. At running back, Charles Sims followed Bryce Beall last season as the Conference USA Freshman of the Year.

7. ARKANSAS

The Razorbacks will be known for their passing,

TOP 10 RECEIVERS

1. NOTRE DAME

This is a clear case of quality over quantity.

First-year Irish coach Brian Kelly came away from spring not knowing if he had the receiver depth or the player conditioning to run his fast-paced spread offense, so the coach expressed his concerns. Take some of those with a grain of salt because it's not Kelly's job right now to hand outatta-boys as he tries to change the "me" culture he found at Notre Dame.

But the Irish are No. 1 here because 1 + 1 = 1. Notre Dame has *Lindy's* top-ranked wide receiver (Michael Floyd) and top-ranked tight end (Kyle Rudolph). That counts for something. A lot, actually.

Besides, Notre Dame doesn't lack bodies and will find other useful targets. True freshman TJ Jones, who enrolled early and opened eyes in spring, is one of them. His godfather is former Notre Dame flanker Rocket Ismail.

2. ARKANSAS

This is kind of the opposite of Notre Dame. Whatever the Razorbacks lack in recognizable national names, they make up for with quality throughout the depth chart. The top four wideouts are back for quarterback Ryan Mallett. Together, they helped the Hogs average nearly 300 yards per game passing.

Greg Childs had the best numbers of the receivers — 48 catches for 894 yards and seven touchdowns. That's typical. This isn't a dink-and-dunk offense. What is striking is that each of the top four receivers — including Jarius Wright, Joe Adams and Cobi Hamilton — averaged at least 16.6 yards per catch.

Senior tight end D.J. Williams is a bonus here, too.

3. HOUSTON

A product of the pass-happy system? Well, sure, the more you throw, the more you catch ... but you can't begrudge these guys for taking advantage. Houston returns three 1,000-yard receivers, led by NFL prospect James Cleveland (104 catches for 1,214 yards and 14 touchdowns). The others are ultra-fast Tyron Carrier and Patrick Edwards.

4. CINCINNATI

The Bearcats move on, even without Mardy Gilyard. USC transfer Vidal Hazelton made his case in the spring to join the top of the rotation that includes big-play guy Armon Binns (a touchdown in nine consecutive games) and slot receiver D.J. Woods. More depth comes from Kenbrell Thompkins, who signed with Tennessee in December, but never enrolled after Lane Kiffin left.

5. SOUTH CAROLINA

Alshon Jeffery burst onto the scene halfway through his freshman season, finishing with 46 catches for 763 yards and six touchdowns. He's a huge target (6-4, 237), as is Tori Gurley (6-5, 230) and tight end Weslye Saunders (6-6, 273). With these tall trees, Stephen Garcia definitely should be completing better than 55.3 percent of his passes.

6. BOISE STATE

Seniors Titus Young and Austin Pettis are returning All-WAC receivers. Combine their career stats, and you come up with this line: 291 catches for 3,735 yards and 45 touchdowns.

7. ALABAMA

The Tide emphasizes the ground game and ball control, but that doesn't mean Nick Saban lacks trust in the passing game. The top of the rotation is back — talented Julio Jones, speed demon Marquis Maze and Darius Hanks.

8. TEXAS TECH

New coach Tommy Tuberville is no dummy. He'll take advantage of Mike Leach's hand-me-downs at receiver. The share-the-wealth group includes Detron Lewis, Alex Torres, Lyle Leong and Tramain Swindall.

9. TEXAS A&M

Jeff Fuller is poised for a 1,000-yard season — like he had when he was a freshman in 2008 before a broken leg interrupted his sophomore season. The Aggies have all kinds of depth, including backup quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who actually had a team-high 46 catches last season.

10. OKLAHOMA

The Sooners don't want Ryan Broyles to be a one-man show, but he can be, catching 89 passes for 1,120 yards and 15 touchdowns. Dejuan Miller, Brandon Caleb and Jaz Reynolds all offered some level of support last season, perhaps more this season, with early enrolled true freshman Kenny Stills shooting up the depth chart.

TOP 10 OFFENSIVE LINES

1. WISCONSIN

Not subtle, but effective. Wisconsin returns all five starting linemen — and two others who have starting experience. Put these guys in front of John Clay, and the Badgers can go straight down hill.

Senior left tackle Gabe Carimi is a returning first-team All-Big Ten player who is in line for All-America honors and then, perhaps, the first round of the draft. Just like the guy he replaced three years ago, Joe Thomas. Left guard John Moffitt is another returning first-team all-conference player.

When in doubt, run left.

2. FLORIDA STATE

The pups of offensive line coach Rick Trickett, who was retained by new head coach Jimbo Fisher, are all grown up. The Seminoles, who were so painfully young a couple of years ago, have 142 combined starts among their top five linemen. Left tackle Andrew Datko, left guard Rodney Hudson and center Ryan McMahon are in line for all-conference honors ... or bigger.

3. FLORIDA

The Gators' offense might seem more fancy than physical, but as one opposing coach told *Lindy's*, "You better have your chin strap buckled when you play Florida because they'll be physical." Four starters are back, with Mike Pouncey moving to center to replace brother Maurkice, who is off to the NFL.

John Moffitt (74) leads an experienced Wisconsin offensive line.



Photo by David Stulka/icon SM

4. OHIO STATE

Four starters return, and there are no worries about the interior, with left guard Justin Boren, center Michael Brewster and right guard Bryant Browning. Everything really falls into place if junior Mike Adams solidifies left tackle by playing to his potential.

5. AUBURN

Auburn has an experienced group, including four returning starters, that can execute Gus Malzahn's offense any which way. Auburn, led by a pair of All-SEC candidates up front in left tackle Lee Ziemba and center Ryan Pugh, averaged 212 rushing yards last season and 220 through the air.

6. BOSTON COLLEGE

The Eagles lost a good one in center Matt Tennant, but have four starters returning. Senior left tackle Anthony Castonzo will enter the season as a first-round possibility.

7. ALABAMA

One of the hidden keys to last season's success was that the Tide started the same starting five for each game. This season, there are two new starters on the line, anchored by center William Vlachos and left tackle James Carpenter, with Alabama hoping for the same kind of health and cohesion as last season.

8. STANFORD

Coach Jim Harbaugh's blue-collar approach starts right here. Four starters return — including center Chase Beeler and promising sophomore guard David DeCastro — looking to open holes for a running back not named Gerhart.

9. GEORGIA

The Bulldogs have a formidable crew, with five returning starters and all-star candidates (Clint Boling, Ben Jones). Can the line lead Georgia to having a more productive offense?

10. USC

The Trojans don't have the enviable depth as in recent years, but the top-shelf talent is still in place with center Kristofer O'Dowd, guard Butch Lewis and tackle Tyron Smith ... plus the usual young, blue-chippers.

TOP
10
DEFENSIVE LINES

1. IOWA

Hawkeyes coach Kirk Ferentz, known for his hosses on offense (rebuilding this year up front), has stockpiled talent on the other side of the line of scrimmage. Iowa has four returning starters, including *Lindy's* preseason All-American Adrian Clayborn, a senior who had 11.5 sacks and 20 tackles for loss last season.

Clayborn keeps good company. Seniors Karl Klug and Christian Ballard are active and disruptive from the tackle positions. Broderick Binns, a junior, has a knack for getting into quarterbacks' air space; he knocked down nine passes last season.

In all, the starting front four compiled 52 tackles for loss, including 27 sacks last season. Who needs to blitz? Those 27 sacks from the front four were more than 63 *teams* had last season. What's more, the linemen combined to break up 16 passes and force seven fumbles.

2. OKLAHOMA

Continuing the theme from last season, the Sooners are still dealing with injuries. DT Adrian Taylor was recovering from a broken leg in the spring, and it would be a big boost if he can return next to sophomore Jamarkus McFarland, one of Bob Stoops' never-ending run of premium recruits. Jeremy Beal will do the pass-rush work, and Frank Alexander is pretty good at the other end, too.

3. NORTH CAROLINA

Junior end Robert Quinn, who had 11 sacks and 19 tackles last season, just might be the best defender on this team, which is an honor like being the best batter on the Yankees. Quinn and DT Marvin Austin are potential All-Americans, and another 300-pounder tackle, Tydreke Powell, slides into the starting lineup.

4. OHIO STATE

Defensive coordinator Jim Heacock said at a coaches clinic this spring "this will be the best defensive line to ever play at Ohio State." Believe him? Cameron Heyward is a big end and a potential All-American. DT Dexter Larimore is a fixture inside. The coaches like the energy and speed of the kids ... but it's a long way to best ever.

5. PITT

The Panthers led the nation last season in sacks (3.62 per game), not needing fancy blitzes or other gimmicks because ends Greg Romeus and Jabaal Sheard could get to the quarterback on their own. OK, those guys did have help from two quality defensive tackles, but coach Dave Wannstedt is plugging good players back into those spots ... so it will be more of the same.



Running against the Iowa defensive front is a losing proposition.

6. TEXAS

The Horns might not make 44 sacks like last season. They might not lead the nation in rushing defense (72.4 yards per game). They'll take their chances with senior end Sam Acho and rising star Alex Okafor on the other side. End of spring question: Who plays defensive tackle next to Kheeston Randall?

7. MIAMI

The Hurricanes produced four first-round defensive linemen from 2001 to 2004, none since then. Allen Bailey could change that in 2011. The Hurricanes have a lot of big bodies on the line and should be stout against the run.

8. NEBRASKA

The Huskers, without Ndamukong Suh, won't have to surrender their Black Shirts. DT Jared Crick can handle the extra blocking attention, and Pierre Allen, healthy now, has big-play potential at end.

9. CLEMSON

Senior Jarvis Jenkins and junior Brandon Thompson each rank high among defensive tackle draft prospects in their respective classes. Junior end Da'Quan Bowers is an even more tantalizing prospect. He just needs to get his knee right (still bothered by

strained ligaments in spring).

10. ALABAMA

The numbers say that Alabama has no returning starters on the line. We laugh at the numbers. The new leading men have ample experience and pedigree, and it's a safe bet that Marcell Dareus' big turn in the BCS national championship game wasn't just a trick of the lights.

TOP
10
LINEBACKERS

1. NORTH CAROLINA

It's an upset that Quan Sturdivant and Bruce Carter made it to their senior seasons because many expected them to take the opt-out cash grab after their junior years. These two, plus three other touted UNC defenders, collectively figured they had unfinished business in the ACC.

For Sturdivant and Carter, this will be their third full-time season of tag-teaming opposing ball carriers, combining for 39.5 career tackles for loss. Sturdivant can play inside or outside, while Carter handles an outside position.

2. MICHIGAN STATE

Everyone knows about Greg Jones. Eric Gordon, who has started alongside Jones for the past 27 games, is also terrific, a high energy player who made a career-best 92 tackles last season. It was nice of Jones to leave him a few ballcarriers to wipe out.

3. OREGON

Built to run, the Ducks return all three starting linebackers ... well, make that two. No, it's not another Oregon suspension, it's just that safety-sized strongside linebacker Eddie Pleasant (5-11, 207) is actually going to become a safety. Good candidates are at the ready for his old spot, joining Casey Matthews and Spencer Paysinger. Did we mention these guys are fast?

4. BOSTON COLLEGE

This is hoping for the best-case scenario in which Mark Herzlich, the 2008 ACC Defensive Player of the Year, returns to the field after beating cancer. Herzlich would be playing for the first time with Luke Kuechly, who had 158 tackles last season as a freshman — eventually earning the nickname “Superman” from his teammates.

5. AUBURN

Josh Byrnes has become a do-it-all middle linebacker with growing leadership qualities and an understanding of scheme. He has veteran players on either side with Craig Stevens and Eltoro Freeman.

6. ALABAMA

Just like with the Tide's defensive line, this isn't a case of a major drop in talent, just a little dip in experience. Dont'a Hightower doesn't need any more seasoning, just a full season of health, as he takes over defensive play-calling duties from first-rounder Rolando McClain.

7. UCONN

Outside linebacker Greg Lloyd moves over to join forces with the defensive ends. The Huskies still have plenty at linebacker — All-Big East performer Lawrence Wilson (140 tackles last season) and fourth-year starter Scott Lutrus.

8. OHIO STATE

Seniors Ross Homan (108 tackles) and Brian Rolle (94) are veterans who can't be surprised in the Big Ten. The third starter figures to be special teams ace Etienne Sabino.

9. KANSAS

Drew Dudley is the team's top returning tackler (88), and Hulton Tharp was promising as a true freshman in the 4-2-5 scheme Kansas used. Now it's a 4-3, and senior Justin Springer, trying to shake the injury bug, could take advantage.

10. NOTRE DAME

Charlie Weis left behind a nice gift in sophomore Manti Te'o, and new coach Brian Kelly knows how to display him — in the middle of a 3-4 defense that is new to the Irish. A great spring portends big things for Te'o, surrounded by veteran linebackers such as Brian Smith, Darius Fleming and Kerry Neal.

TOP 10 DEFENSIVE BACKS

1. TEXAS

Having safety Earl Thomas back just would have made this too easy. With the All-American off to the NFL, any of the top three teams on this list could make a strong case for best secondary. The difference for the Horns: Three NFL-worthy corners, all experienced, all battle-tested.

Aaron Williams, Curtis Brown and Chykie Brown will be the playmakers on defense, with help from solid safety Blake Gideon and the “who's next” conveyor belt of UT talent. Plus, there's no better secondary coach than Duane Akina.

2. FLORIDA

Like Texas, Florida lost a secondary star (cornerback Joe Haden). Like Texas, the damage is minimal because the Gators still have Janoris Jenkins at corner and the best safety combo in the country — Ahmad Black and Will Hill. Florida was fifth nationally in pass efficiency defense last season, but, like Texas, the secondary has to prove it can cover that one second longer because of a diminished pass rush.

3. NORTH CAROLINA

It's an all-senior starting group, returning intact from last season's stingy unit that was 14th in the nation in pass efficiency defense. Corner Kendric Burney and safety Deunta Williams, each first-team All-ACC, have started 38 consecutive games.

4. SOUTH CAROLINA

The one knock on the secondary last season was its measly six interceptions. That's uncommonly quiet for a group with this much potential. Sophomore cornerback Stephon Gilmore should have six picks by himself in 2010, when the league's quarterbacking isn't very good (but, alas, he doesn't get to face Stephen Garcia). Ex-safety Chris Culliver will help at the other corner.

5. WEST VIRGINIA

Every level of the Mountaineers defense figures to be elite (let's just say the defensive line and linebackers finished 11th in our unit ranking). Having playmaking safeties is key to making the 3-3-5 scheme work — and West Virginia has one of those in Robert Sands, who was All-Big East as a sophomore. Cornerback Brandon Hogan is another all-league talent.

6. AIR FORCE

Can't argue with the numbers. The Falcons were fifth in pass defense, 17th in pass efficiency defense and basically de-pantsed the nation's most prolific passer when they intercepted Case Keenum six times in an Armed Forces Bowl victory. Standout corners Reggie Rember and Anthony Wright return, as does safety Jon Davis.

7. NEBRASKA

We like any secondary that allowed teams to complete just 47.8 percent of their passes last season. We like any secondary that has a corner as good as Prince Amukamara. And we like any secondary that has a

hybrid nickel back/linebacker position called the “Peso.” The athletic and versatile Eric Hagg will man that spot.

8. UCLA

Free safety Rahim Moore, who had half of the team's 20 interceptions, is one of three returning starters. There is an opening at cornerback, where Aaron Hester tries to take the baton from departed Alterraun Verner after missing almost all of the 2009 season because of injury.

9. CLEMSON

The Tigers are set at the safety spots with all-stars DeAndre McDaniels and Rashard Hall. The corners are new, but they aren't raw, and they don't lack for talent.

10. IOWA

Junior strong safety Tyler Sash has 11 interceptions, and free safety Brett Greenwood is a fourth-year starter. Corner Amari Spivey left early; he was a third-round pick.

Chykie Brown is one of three proven playmakers in the Texas secondary.



Photo by Tom Pennington/Getty Images



Illustration by Tim Williams

QUICK SUCCESS, OR QUICK HOOK

BY
ANTHONY GIMINO

Hire 'em to fire 'em.

That's not just the motto that hangs over every college football coach's head. It's also a cute, little rhyming phrase that more athletic directors should wield with the fearlessness of Tim Tebow and the force of Ndamukong Suh.

Really.

This romantic notion of the patriarch who stays at one school forever is nice — we're looking at you, JoePa — but that's not the best way to play the game these days.

You want to win it all? Hit the reset button as often as possible.

Conventional wisdom annually reminds us that patience is a virtue, that a guy

deserves five years to show what he can do with a program, and that a quick hook leads to instability in a program, which leads to nowhere.

It just might be that conventional wisdom is flat-out wrong.

Out of all the bad coaching decisions Notre Dame has made in the past 30 years, the one thing it might actually have gotten right was firing Tyrone Willingham after three seasons. It wasn't going to work. You knew it. They knew it. Everyone knew it.

Was it fair that Willingham got canned after three years, given Notre Dame's track record of standing by its coaches? No. It

was not fair. And you can draw your own conclusions from that — but also ask yourself this:

What purpose did it serve to keep Gerry Faust, Bob Davie and Charlie Weis on life support through a five-year tenure?

The fourth and fifth years from those coaches netted Notre Dame a 39-32 overall record and further deterioration of the brand. Meanwhile, Lou Holtz won it all in his third season with the Irish.

See what we're talking about?

This isn't rocket science. If a coach is going to achieve greatness at a college football superpower, it's not going to take five years to show itself.

Check out the past 10 BCS national champions:

Year	Team	Coach	Season
2000	Oklahoma	Bob Stoops	Season 2
2001	Miami	Larry Coker	Season 1
2002	Ohio State	Jim Tressel	Season 2
2003	LSU	Nick Saban	Season 4
2004	USC	Pete Carroll	Season 4
2005	Texas	Mack Brown	Season 8
2006	Florida	Urban Meyer	Season 2
2007	LSU	Les Miles	Season 3
2008	Florida	Urban Meyer	Season 4
2009	Alabama	Nick Saban	Season 3

A quick note about Brown, whose eight years before winning a title seems to be the exception that proves the rule. Not really. It still proves the rule the regular way.

Brown took over a four-win program from John Mackovic, won nine games in each of his first three seasons and has been in double-digit victories for a remarkable nine years in a row. Yeah, it was pretty clear early on that he could do the job with the Horns.

Granted, maybe Coker was just in the right place at the right time, inheriting the 2001 Hurricanes — the Team of the Decade — from coach Butch Davis. But in the cases of Brown, Stoops, Saban (at LSU and Alabama) and Carroll, these guys took over teams coming off losing records. And Florida was aground, wallowing in five-loss seasons when Meyer took over.

It didn't take them long at all to turn losers and snoozers into winners and grinners.

Moreover, Carroll shared the 2003 championship with Saban — and it was just Season 3 for Pete at USC.

Point is, the powerhouses always have the gravitational force to get things done quickly, no matter how messy things have gotten. All they have to do is find the right coach for the job. Don't waste time. Two or three recruiting classes, a change in the culture, a burst of new energy from a new coach ... hey, national championship!

And if things start going south for these national championship coaches, fire them, too. Hit that reset button as often as possible and as knee-jerk as necessary.

Coker's program dipped and he was gone from Miami after six seasons. Too long?

Carroll suffered a series of puzzling losses in recent years and self-ejected to

BCS MATCHUPS

It's the fourth go-round of the four-year BCS cycle — time really flies when you're talking on sports radio complaining about the college football postseason — so it's back to the Phoenix area, where the fine folks at the Fiesta Bowl host the national championship game.

One change this year is that ESPN, not Fox, has the rights to the BCS games ... and the four-letter network, which might actually have knowledgeable college football announcers calling the biggest games of the season, retains those rights through this cycle ... and then maybe we'll finally get an eight-team playoff (sorry, just some wishful typing there).

Down the road, there could be some changes. BCS officials announced in the spring that the Mountain West could become an automatic qualifier for the 2012 and 2013 seasons if it hits a series of criteria tied to the BCS rankings. That should especially be good news for BYU, which, we're just guessing, will have played in seven consecutive Las Vegas Bowls by then.

But that's for later. Here's how *Lindy's* sees this season right here:

BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Monday, Jan. 10

Glendale, Ariz.* University of Phoenix Stadium
BCS #1 vs. BCS #2

Lindy's pick: Alabama vs. Boise State

ROSE BOWL

Saturday, Jan. 1

Pasadena, Calif.* Rose Bowl
Pac-10 champ vs. Big Ten champ

Lindy's pick: USC vs. Ohio State

FIESTA BOWL

Saturday, Jan. 1

Glendale, Ariz.* University of Phoenix Stadium
Big 12 champ vs. BCS at-large

Lindy's pick: Texas vs. Wisconsin

ORANGE BOWL

Monday, Jan. 3

Miami Gardens, Fla.* Sun Life Stadium
ACC champ vs. BCS at-large

Lindy's pick: Virginia Tech vs. Pittsburgh

SUGAR BOWL

Tuesday, Jan. 4

New Orleans* Superdome
Lindy's pick: Florida vs. Oklahoma

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the Seattle Seahawks. You could make the case that a change might be just the thing to re-energize the Trojans (although to make that case you'd have to think Lane Kiffin is somehow an upgrade).

At LSU, Miles has come under fire from fans in the past couple of seasons, mostly because he's in the same SEC division as Saban ... and he's not Saban.

OK, so what up-and-coming coaches should we look for this season?

Let's look at three national championship programs from the 1990s that crashed on the rocks a few years back.

* Randy Shannon is in his fourth season at Miami, looking to make a move from last season's improved 9-4 record. Not bad. But not good enough yet.

* Steve Sarkisian enters his second season at Washington with a star senior quarterback in Jake Locker and a team considered a sleeper in the Pac-10. Promising.

* Bo Pelini is in his third season at Nebraska, coming one second away from winning the 2009 Big 12 championship. The Huskers are favored to win the Big 12 North again. Looks like we have a winner.

And then there's the very special case of Michigan.

C'mon ... if Rich Rodriguez can't even field a winner by the end of his third year, you know what needs to be done.

Get rid of him.

Patience is the worst thing a superpower can have.

LET'S PUT THE RIVAL BACK IN THESE RIVALRIES

Nothing hurts worse than losing to your rival. It's a wound that time can't heal for a year, and when your team turns around and blows it again, that clock starts ticking again and the pain gets deeper.

Some of you out there really know what we're talking about. Some of the greatest rivalries in college football have gotten all out of whack lately.

FLORIDA-GEORGIA

The Gators have won 17 of the past 20 meetings in the game formerly known as the "World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail Party" (we just can't quit that name). Florida has been rubbing it in lately, winning by a combined score of 90-27 over the past two seasons.

Rivalry forecast: Florida still has the edge at quarterback, even without Tim Tebow ... and the Gators have plenty of other advantages, too, as long as Urban Meyer sticks around.

USC-UCLA

Pete Carroll was the King of L.A. and ruled as such; the Trojans have won 10 of 11 games, including two from the otherwise forgettable Paul Hackett era. The Bruins have scored exactly one touchdown in three consecutive meetings, but did manage a 2006 upset that kept USC from the BCS title game. So there.

Rivalry forecast: Cue UCLA's newspaper ad from 2008 — The Football Monopoly in Los Angeles is Officially Over. Two years later, it might at least have a ghost of a chance to be true. The Bruins are building and Carroll has skedaddled to Seattle. This could all be up for grabs ... perhaps starting next year.

OHIO STATE-MICHIGAN

Jim Tressel's Buckeyes have won six in row and have BCS bowl appearances in the past five seasons. Michigan has won a total of eight games in Rich Rodriguez's first two seasons.

Rivalry forecast: Boo-hoo, Big Blue.

FLORIDA-FLORIDA STATE

The Gators have won six in a row in the series. The last three have been thumpings by 27, 30 and 32 points. So, basically, the

Gators have treated Florida State as if it was Florida Atlantic.

Rivalry forecast: That's a lot of gap to make up, but see the "Hire 'em to Fire 'em" note above and realize that Jimbo Fisher could bring the Seminoles into that conversation before long.

USC-NOTRE DAME

Last year's game came down to three last-second incomplete Jimmy Clausen passes into the end zone, and the 2005 meeting was the "Bush Push" classic in South Bend. In between, Pete Carroll and USC had no trouble belly-bumping Charlie Weis and Notre Dame out of the way. Mostly, this great rivalry has been a big snore, with the Trojans winning eight in a row.

Rivalry forecast: Talent edge to the Trojans. Coaching edge to Notre Dame. This will get good again.

NAVY-NOTRE DAME

Domination. The Midshipmen have won 67 percent of recent meetings.

Rivalry forecast: We joke, but the series — which had gone to Notre Dame an NCAA-record 43 consecutive times through 2006 — isn't one anymore, with the Mids winning two of three. This year, a Notre Dame loss to Navy — which returns 14 starters including QB Ricky Dobbs from a 10-win team — wouldn't even be considered an upset.



USC VS. UCLA

Photo by Kevork Djansazian/Getty Images

AND THE RECRUITING CHAMPION IS...

OK, we'll give you one guess as to which conference recruits the best players. Very good, class. It's the SEC. That was easy. Now, then. Which conference is the second-best?

Would you believe the Pac-10?

Rivals.com, using some sort of complicated formula designed by Cold War scientists and MIT mathematicians, assigns points to each team's recruiting class based on the quality and quantity of players. We went ahead and added up those points for each BCS-conference team for the past three years to see which conference, collectively, was accumulating the so-called best talent.

We figured the three-year period would provide a nice time-lapse snapshot.

The SEC teams accumulated 56,911 recruiting points, which, oddly enough, can be redeemed for a four-person meal at Dreamland Bar-B-Que. Or two admissions to the Alabama spring game.

We know. The recruiting points themselves don't mean so much, but the comparison is what we're looking for — think of it as a comparison of a recruiting class' reputation for having talent when they got to college (i.e., recruiting talent).

Here is the comparison of each conference based on per-team average.

SEC	1,581 points	ACC	1,110 points
Pac-10	1,222	Big Ten	961
Big 12	1,158	Big East	616

Even if it's hard to get your head around the numbers, it's easy to see that it's a pretty big gap between No. 1 and everyone else ... and it's also a testament to how few weak sisters there are in the SEC.

The surprisingly poor Big Ten ranking makes more sense when you consider that the league average is dragged down by programs that have been recruiting lightweights — Northwestern, Indiana, Purdue — and by some uneven Signing Day efforts from other teams in recent years.

Which teams have done the best? We have those numbers, too. And the teams at the top look awfully familiar, none of which explains why Boise State — with a grand total of 532 recruiting points in the past three seasons — is able to compete at the highest level.

1. Alabama	7,930	11. Miami	5,782
2. USC	7,725	12. UCLA	5,781
3. Florida	7,555	13. Auburn	5,419
4. Texas	7,022	14. Tennessee	4,738
5. LSU	6,970	15. South Carolina	4,616
6. Oklahoma	6,465	16. Clemson	4,683
7. Florida State	6,358	17. Texas A&M	4,472
8. Ohio State	6,293	18. North Carolina	4,399
9. Georgia	5,955	19. Ole Miss	4,347
10. Michigan	5,823	20. Oregon	4,333



NICK SABAN

Nick Saban
Head Coach

Photo by Kirby Lee

COLLEGE FOOTBALL GONE WILD

Everybody is running the Wildcat. Thanks goes to then-Arkansas coach Houston Nutt, who brought it to college in 2006 as a way to get Darren McFadden and Felix Jones on the field at the same time.

Now, with the wildcard Wildcat raging like wildfire, every team wants to put its spin on the scheme. Not by redesigning it. Renaming it.

Most lack creativity — Nutt changed the "Wild Hog" to "Wild Rebel" when he changed his address to Ole Miss — and what we have a lot of is the "Wild + Mascot" formula.

South Carolina has the Wild Gamecock, with studly sophomore cornerback Stephon Gilmore taking direct snaps. (If South Carolina had used the Wildcat when Chris Smelley was still on the team, they could have called it "Smelley Cat").

Oregon State has the Wild Beaver, which was highly effective last season ... and a name you need to be careful with.

There is the Wild Horn (Texas) and Wild Tiger (LSU). TCU runs the Wild Frog. Look for USC to snap the ball to freshman running back Dillon Baxter in the "Diego" offense. That Baxter is from the same hometown as Reggie Bush (yes, San Diego) is only one of the reasons why he already is being blessed — or is it cursed? — with the title of "The Next Reggie Bush."

Virginia Tech puts a twist on its nickname by running the Wild Turkey offense. We'll drink to that.

We can only hope new Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly has the good sense to stop any further proliferation of the mashed-up and messed up name ... Leprecat.

THE COMEBACK TRAIL

Some key college football players, because of injury or illness, never had a chance to make an impact in 2009. This season could be a whole other story. Here's a look at a dozen such players:

Mark Herzlich, LB, Boston College — The early favorite for the Heartwarming Story of the Year. He's beaten cancer, clear of the Ewing's sarcoma in his left leg. He did some non-contact and conditioning

SCOPING THE NATION

work in the spring. If he regains his 2008 ACC Defensive Player of the Year form, who plays him in the movie?

Nate Irving, LB, NC State — Last summer he fell asleep at the wheel of his SUV at nearly 5 in the morning, struck two trees, ended up in a ditch in a one-car wreck and, if not for the vagaries of chance, could have lost his life. As it was, the injuries only cost him a year of football. When healthy, he's one of the best linebackers in the ACC.

Robert Griffin, QB, Baylor — Lost to a torn ACL in the third game of last season, Griffin's injury doomed the Bears to a 15th consecutive season without a bowl, tied with Duke for the longest drought among BCS-conference teams. Now that the dual-threat QB is back, Baylor could break that streak.

Darren Evans, RB, Virginia Tech — He rushed for an ACC freshman record 1,265 yards in 2008. Then, he blew out his knee in the preseason. Then, Ryan Williams rushed for an ACC freshmen rushing record 1,655 yards. Best backfield ever at Tech?

Eugene Jarvis, RB, Kent State — Back for a sixth season after missing almost all



MARK HERZLICH

HEISMAN WATCH

Mark Ingram was on nobody's Heisman list to start last season ... and he won.

Now, he's on everybody's Heisman list ... and he probably can't win.

Oh, he *can*, of course. He's good enough. His team is plenty good enough. He plays big in big games. He does all that and we expect to him to have another great year.

Ah ... but it's not that simple. We've seen that in recent years with wannabe two-time Heisman winners. Jason White, Matt Leinart, Tim Tebow and Sam Bradford couldn't repeat. Shoot, Tebow had two chances to do so.

Not only does the reigning Mr. Heisman have to compete with every other college football player (well, actually against just the skill position players on the very best teams), but he has to compete against his own Heisman season ... and against all other Heisman winners in history who weren't able to match Archie Griffin's duet.

Sometimes, they have set the bar awfully high.

That could be the case with Ingram, who could be just as valuable to Alabama this season, while falling short of his 1,658 yards and 17 touchdowns from last season. Especially if super sophomore Trent Richardson carves into Ingram's carries.

Ingram remains on the logical early list of elite candidates, but the role of early favorite seems more up in the air than usual this season. Perhaps another sophomore (Dion Lewis?) can win it. Until Tebow took home the stiff-armed prize in 2007, no sophomore had ever won the Heisman. Now, there have been three in a row.

In fact, six of the past seven winners have been non-seniors, with juniors finishing first from 2003 to 2005 before Ohio State senior quarterback Troy Smith earned top honors.

Here are a dozen guys who are talented enough to win, but everyone has flaws. In a lot of cases, their teams just aren't good enough. Like it or not — and we don't — that's the way the Heisman works now. In the past decade, the Heisman winner's team averaged 11.7 victories.

THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR FLAWS:

John Clay, RB, Wisconsin | Can rush for 1,500-plus yards and not move the "excitement" needle.

Noel Devine, RB, West Virginia | At least, a better name for a RB than Clay.

Michael Floyd, WR, Notre Dame | Hard for receivers to win, but Irish will ask a lot of him.

Jacory Harris, QB, Miami | Only if he cuts way back on those interceptions.

Mark Ingram, RB, Alabama | It'll be hard to top 2009's numbers.

Case Keenum, QB, Houston | Has to fight for proper credit in high-scoring offense.

Dion Lewis, RB, Pitt | Sophomore has to make up ground in name recognition.

Jake Locker, QB, Washington | Tantalizing skills, but hasn't been close to Heisman numbers.

Ryan Mallett, QB, Arkansas | Has to solve Alabama; Hogs can't lose five games again.

Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State | Broncos have to go undefeated yet again.

Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State | If he repeats that Rose Bowl performance a bunch, he'll win.

Jacquizz Rodgers, RB, Oregon State | All he has to do is lead the Beavers to the Rose Bowl.

Others, such as Oregon running back LaMichael James, Texas A&M quarterback Jerrod Johnson and Florida State quarterback Christian Ponder, could have monster statistical years.

Mostly, though, only national championship contenders need to apply. That's why some young quarterbacks — such as Oklahoma's Landry Jones, USC's Matt Barkley, Texas' Garrett Gilbert and Florida's John Brantley — rate as better betting propositions than some more accomplished players.



TERRELLE PRYOR

Photo by Kirby Lee

of last season with a kidney injury. Four of his seven career 100-yard games have come against BCS-conference teams, so he's legit. And when BYU's Harvey Unga withdrew from school in the spring, Jarvis moved to No. 1 in the nation among active players in career rushing yards (3,426).

Dont'a Hightower, LB, Alabama — Turns out, the Tide didn't need him last season after he suffered a knee injury in the fourth game. This time, he should be a star. He'll be the new linebacker leader and the man in the middle for Nick Saban's reloading defense.

Trinton Sturdivant, OT, Georgia — He started his first game as a true freshman in 2007 and went on to earn Freshman All-America honors. That was two knee injuries ago. He has played in only one game — and couldn't finish it — since his freshman year, but he'll try to shoehorn his way into an excellent Dawgs line that returns five starters.

Cooper Taylor, DB, Georgia Tech — Came out of the Miami game last season when he was having trouble breathing and his heart was racing. Doctors would later diagnose him with Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, which can cause the heart to beat irregularly. The 2008 Freshman All-American needed heart surgery, but he was back in the spring, ready to help a defense that lost safety Morgan Burnett early to the NFL.

Jewel Hampton, RB, Iowa — Missed last season with a torn ACL after averaging 5.1 yards a carry as a 2008 freshman. He rejoins a backfield that developed a solid one-two punch of Adam Robinson and Brandon Wegher in his absence.

Rodney Paulk, LB, South Carolina — A 22-game starter in his first two years, Paulk's past two seasons have each ended early because of injury. He should slip back into the role at middle linebacker for one of the SEC's best defenses.

Matt Asiata, RB, Utah — His knee injury cleared the way for Eddie Wide to rush for 1,000 yards last season. Asiata is the bruiser in a three-headed backfield that includes Sausan Shakerin.

Omar Bolden, CB, Arizona State — Got a medical redshirt after playing in only four games because of a knee injury. Looked super in the spring as part of a fast, aggressive defense in a critical year for coach Dennis Erickson.



RISE OF THE SERVICE ACADEMIES

Hail the triple-option offense. Coach Paul Johnson revived Navy with his version of the attack and then launched himself to Georgia Tech, where he won the ACC in his second season, confounding the big boys with a triple-option that critics said couldn't work at that level.

Meanwhile, Ken Niumatalolo seamlessly took over at Navy, extending the Mids' bowl streak to seven. That will move to eight this season.

Air Force has won 25 games in three years under Troy Calhoun. Niumatalolo's buddy, second-year Army coach Rich Ellerson, is moving the Black Knights forward with the triple-option and sophomore quarterback Trent Steelman.

Army fell one game short of a bowl bid last season, losing its finale to Navy. If the Knights can squeeze out a couple more wins this season, this would be only the second time since 1963 that all three military academies have winning records.

TIMES WILL BE A-CHANGIN'

Two rule changes for this season: No eyeblack with messages on it (won't Reggie Bush's area code and Tim Tebow's Bible verses look quaint in highlights 20 years from now?) and no more wedge blocking on kick returns. That's a safety issue. The NFL bans that, too.

Down the road, starting in 2011, any player flagged for taunting while on his way for a touchdown will have the score erased. The penalty becomes a spot foul instead of being enforced on the PAT, two-point conversion or kickoff.

We like the rule, in theory. It's not taking any fun out of the game, it's taking the nonsense out of the game. But that seems to be a minor matter compared to the hellfire that would rain down when one of these judgment calls takes points off the board in a big game. It really doesn't seem worth the mess that it's setting up to occur.

Even further down the road, there is going to be conference expansion, contraction, perhaps even elimination. Realignment is inevitable. College football went through big conferences changes last decade. Many of the changes aren't older than YouTube, and those conference tectonic plates are still shifting.

The end game could be four major 16-team conferences. Hmmm ... we could have the winners play in a four-team national championship bracket. Let's do that.

HIGH FIVES

FIVE HOT-SEAT COACHES

Arizona State's Dennis Erickson
Colorado's Dan Hawkins
Michigan's Rich Rodriguez
Maryland's Ralph Friedgen
Washington State's Paul Wulff

FIVE MAJOR-COLLEGE TRANSFERS TO WATCH

Purdue quarterback Robert Marve (from Miami)
Rice running back Sam McGuffie (from Michigan)
UCLA wide receiver Josh Smith (from Colorado)
Alabama cornerback Phelon Jones (from LSU)
Cincinnati receiver Vidal Hazelton (from USC)

FIVE HEAD COACHES LOOKING TO GET BACK IN THE GAME

Mike Bellotti • Tommy Bowden
Mike Leach • Jim Leavitt
Mark Mangino

SEVEN PLAYERS WITH FAMOUS DADS/RELATIVES

Tennessee quarterback Matt Simms (son of Phil)
Mississippi State QB Dylan Favre (nephew of Brett)
Notre Dame QB Nate Montana and Washington QB Nick Montana (sons of Joe)
UCLA receiver Jerry Rice Jr. (son of Jerry, of course)
Western Michigan DT John Rice (nephew of Jerry)
Notre Dame receiver Austin Collinworth (son of Chis)

SCOPING THE NATION

COACHING CHANGES

It was an epic year for coaching changes, as we say goodbye to venerable Bobby Bowden, Dick Tomey and Rich Brooks. That's 98 years of head coaching experience right there.

Notre Dame starts over. Again.

Pete Carroll, one of the faces of college football, turned pro. So, the dominoes fell. USC swiped the head coach from Tennessee, which took the head coach from Louisiana Tech, which grabbed the offensive coordinator from Arizona.

Meanwhile, there was discontent, controversy, and allegations of player abuse. Texas Tech's Mike Leach, South Florida's Jim Leavitt, and Kansas' Mark Mangino — all successful coaches on the field — were fired or forced out.

As it shakes out, there have been 44 coaching changes in the past two years — two by Tennessee. More than one-third of the 120 FBS programs have different head coaches than they did in 2008.

AKRON

Out: J.D. Brookhart
In: Rob Ianello

Ianello is a recruiting whiz. He most recently was at Notre Dame and also learned under Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin and Dick Tomey at Arizona, two solid men to draw from as he begins his first head coaching assignment.

BUFFALO

Out: Turner Gill
In: Jeff Quinn

It was only a matter of time before Buffalo lost Gill, who jumped to Kansas, where he will compete against his alma mater, Nebraska. The Bulls scooped up a hot offensive coordinator — Quinn was a long-time assistant to Brian Kelly. Naturally, he brings in a no-huddle, spread offense.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Out: Butch Jones
In: Dan Enos

Enos, a former assistant at Michigan State, arrives too late to take advantage of QB Dan LeFevour, off to the NFL. That, plus other personnel losses on offense and the installation of new systems, means patience might be needed for a year or two.

CINCINNATI

Out: Brian Kelly
In: Butch Jones

The Central Michigan-to-Cincinnati pipeline worked once. How about twice? The Bearcats' high-tempo offense will stay the same as Jones adds a more personal coaching touch than Kelly, who won back-to-back Big East titles before heading to Notre Dame.

EAST CAROLINA

Out: Skip Holtz
In: Ruffin McNeill

McNeill, the former defensive coordinator at Texas Tech, handled a tough situation with class when he was elevated to interim head coach after the dismissal of Mike Leach. McNeill is installing Leach's spread offense and giving the reins to coordinator Lincoln Riley, who will be turning all of 27 as the season begins.

FLORIDA STATE

Out: Bobby Bowden
In: Jimbo Fisher

Fisher studied for the job for three seasons as offensive coordinator/coach-in-waiting. He's not afraid of Bowden's shadow, eager to put his stamp on the program. Now, if he manages to win 10 games a year every year, he'll surpass Bowden's 377 victories in 2047.

KANSAS

Out: Mark Mangino
In: Turner Gill

Gill has a 30-40 career record (forgivable considering he spent five years at Buffalo), but he does have a MAC championship to his credit (impressive considering he spent five years at Buffalo). The former Nebraska option superstar has a calming influence that will allow the Jayhawks to take a needed deep breath after Mangino's reign.

KENTUCKY

Out: Rich Brooks
In: Joker Phillips

Phillips, the second black coach in SEC history, inherits a better situation than did the first black coach, Sylvester Croom, at Mississippi State in 2004. Phillips, taking over in a coach-in-waiting scenario, now leads a program that has won 30 games in the past four seasons ... but still seeks a higher level with wins against elite teams.

LOUISIANA TECH

Out: Derek Dooley
In: Sonny Dykes

It was only a matter of time for the personable Dykes, who comes off the staff of Mike Stoops at Arizona and runs a Texas Tech-style attack. Strange twist: Dykes, the son of Red Raiders' legend Spike Dykes, is the third consecutive legacy hire for the Bulldogs, following Jack Bickell Jr., and Dooley. Who's next: Steve Spurrier Jr.? Shane Beamer?

LOUISIANA-MONROE

Out: Charlie Weatherbie
In: Todd Berry

Berry is a coaching veteran who has head coaching experience at Illinois State and Army. He spent 2004 and 2005 at ULM as offensive coordinator and most recently was coordinator at UNLV.

LOUISVILLE

Out: Steve Kragthorpe
In: Charlie Strong

Kragthorpe was a hot property a few years ago, but he lost all of Louisville's momentum after Bobby Petrino left, going 15-21 in three seasons. Charlie Strong, coming off a stint as Florida's defensive coordinator, was overdue for a head coaching job.

MARSHALL

Out: Mark Snyder
In: John "Doc" Holliday

Holliday, a coaching veteran with 31 years of experience, is a head coach for the first time. He knows the territory, having served the majority of his career at West Virginia, in addition to a two-year stint (and a 2006 national championship) with Urban Meyer at Florida. Snyder resigned after going 22-37 in five seasons.

MEMPHIS

Out: Tommy West
In: Larry Porter

Porter, a Memphis alum and an ace recruiter off the LSU staff, loses two standout receivers and a 1,000-yard running back. It might be enough to tread water for his first year while waiting to see that recruiting kick in.

NOTRE DAME

Out: Charlie Weis
In: Brian Kelly

Everything about this is a big change. From the personalities of the head coach to a new spread offense to a 3-4 scheme on defense to a culture that Kelly said had become too focused on "me" and getting to the NFL. A fascinating transformation, even if immediate results are not expected.

SAN JOSE STATE

Out: Dick Tomey
In: Mike MacIntyre

Despite last season's struggles, Tomey left the program in far better shape than he found it. He hands off to MacIntyre, who worked in the NFL under Bill Parcells and most recently was the defensive coordinator at Duke. It's a tough place to make a head coaching debut, though.

TENNESSEE

Out: Lane Kiffin
In: Derek Dooley

Dooley gets thrown into the deep end of the SEC pool. The Vols can't afford to sink too far in the hyper-competitive East. The coaching upheaval of the past two years contributed to UT losing 33 players, including de-commits, guys who quit, and others who were booted.

TEXAS TECH

Out: Mike Leach
In: Tommy Tuberville

Leach succeeded on the field at Tech because he was different. Tuberville is thoroughly professional but more conventional, emphasizing defense and a beefed-up running game. But the Red Raiders won't abandon the pass or playing fast, debuting what they called a hurry-up "NASCAR" offense this spring.

UNLV

Out: Mike Sanford
In: Bobby Hauck

Hauck was as ready as ever for his shot in college football's top level after going 80-17 at Montana and playing in three FCS national championship games. On the downside, the Rebels haven't had a winning season since 2000 and this is a coaching graveyard. Of the nine head coaches in school history, only one — Ron Meyer — ever coached again after his days in Las Vegas.

USC

Out: Pete Carroll
In: Lane Kiffin

How long before the Kiffin-Rick Neuheisel feud? The good thing to say about Kiffin is — as he did at Tennessee — he surrounded himself with top-notch assistants, including dad Monte and Ed Orgeron for defense/recruiting. An underappreciated move: Swiping John Baxter from Fresno State as special teams coordinator/associate head coach.

USF

Out: Jim Leavitt
In: Skip Holtz

Holtz earned the promotion from East Carolina, winning back-to-back Conference USA championships. Leavitt, fired for alleged mistreatment of players, had been the only coach in the 13-year history of the program.

VIRGINIA

Out: Al Groh
In: Mike London

Groh was out after three losing records in four years, including a 3-9 mark last season that was the school's worst since 1982. London, a former UVa assistant who vows to better battle Virginia Tech for in-state prospects, was 24-5 in two years as the head coach at Richmond.

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Out: David Elson
In: Willie Taggart

Taggart, a former Hilltoppers quarterback, spent the past three seasons as the running backs coach at Stanford. He is changing schemes (West Coast offense, 4-3 defense), which can't be a bad idea for a team that has lost 20 games in a row.

SCOPING THE NATION

TOP 12 NON-CONFERENCE GAMES

1. BOISE STATE VS. VIRGINIA TECH, SEPT. 6

This Monday-night game at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., will ripple through the season. Face it, the loser of this Top 10 battle is gone from the national title picture. With a Boise State victory, everyone will start three months of debating the Broncos' worthiness for the BCS championship game.

2. PENN STATE AT ALABAMA, SEPT. 11

We're not saying that Joe Paterno is old, but he is the only guy still standing on the sideline who coached against Bear Bryant ... and he did it FOUR times, starting in 1975. JoePa was 0-4 against Bear, but he hasn't faced the Tide since 1990. As it was in the old days, this is a clash of superpowers that still favors Bama.

3. MIAMI AT OHIO STATE, SEPT. 11

The Buckeyes probably won't need an interference call in the end zone to beat the Hurricanes this time.

4. FLORIDA STATE AT OKLAHOMA, SEPT. 11

New Florida State coach Jimbo Fisher gets an early chance to signal that the

Seminoles are elite again. Sibling alert: OU coach Bob Stoops tries to solve the defense of brother Mark Stoops, FSU's new defensive coordinator.

5. FLORIDA AT FLORIDA STATE, NOV. 27

If the Seminoles can't get it done early in the season (see above), then maybe they can get it done late.

6. NORTH CAROLINA VS. LSU, SEPT. 4 (ATLANTA)

The SEC won the first two Chick-fil-A Kickoff games against the ACC, thanks to the strong play of Alabama. LSU isn't Alabama, so the ACC has a chance in what should be a defensive throwdown.

7. OREGON STATE VS. TCU, SEPT. 4 (ARLINGTON, TEXAS)

The Horned Frogs will be tested early, including in this opener at Cowboys Stadium. Two weeks later, TCU plays host to Baylor. A week after that, the Beavers play at Boise State to complete the two-step against the non-BCS conference powers.

8. UCLA AT TEXAS, SEPT. 25

The last time the Bruins played in Austin, in 1997, quarterback Cade McNown and

crew posted the Rout 66 game — a 66-3 victory. The odds of UCLA scoring half that? About the same as the Longhorns throwing a parade for ex-coach John Mackovic.

9. NEBRASKA AT WASHINGTON, SEPT. 18

The Cornhuskers are on the brink of being nationally relevant again. The Huskies are on the brink of being on a path that leads to a bridge that takes them to being nationally relevant again. But if Savior Jake leads a win here ...

10. NOTRE DAME AT USC, NOV. 27

Doesn't look super sexy right now. What these teams become at the end of the season is anybody's guess.

11. GEORGIA TECH AT GEORGIA, NOV. 27

The Jackets rushed for 409 yards in a victory two years ago. The Dawgs rushed for 339 yards in an upset last season.

12. ARKANSAS VS. TEXAS A&M, OCT. 9 (ARLINGTON, TEXAS)

If you listen closely, you can already hear the sound of offense.



Photo by Bill Frakes/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images



TOP 12 CONFERENCE GAMES

I. FLORIDA AT ALABAMA, OCT. 2

It's the first regular-season meeting since 2006 and, very possibly, the first of two meetings this season. Yes, please.

2. TEXAS VS. OKLAHOMA, OCT. 2 (DALLAS)

No Bradford. No McCoy. And you still can't take your eyes off of it.

3. ALABAMA AT LSU, NOV. 6

It's the last road game of the regular season for the Tide and its toughest test in the final month (there might be some in the state of Alabama that would disagree, of course ... see game No. 7 on this list).

4. TEXAS AT NEBRASKA, OCT. 16

Here's the Big 12 championship game rematch/preview in front of a sea of red and a timekeeper who will be happy to let the clock run out.

5. OHIO STATE AT WISCONSIN, OCT. 16

It's a night game in Madison, as the Badgers try to turn the tables from last season when they had a 368-184 edge in yards, only to get crushed 31-13 as the Bucks scored twice on defense and once on special teams.

6. OREGON AT USC, OCT. 30

The deposed Trojans, under Lane Kiffin, try to get back their Pac-10 crown from the Ducks, who will be without quarterback Jeremiah Masoli.

7. AUBURN AT ALABAMA, NOV. 26

The Tigers aren't going to surrender the state to Alabama, which needed a late 79-yard drive to shake off Auburn, 26-21, last season in the Iron Bowl.

8. WEST VIRGINIA AT PITTSBURGH, NOV. 26

The Backyard Brawl could serve as the Big East's championship game.

9. TCU AT UTAH, NOV. 6

The Horned Frogs, who play their other big league game at home against BYU on Oct. 16, could be pushing toward the BCS.

10. OHIO STATE AT IOWA, NOV. 20

Forget the Michigan game a week later. If the Buckeyes are going to win their sixth consecutive Big Ten title, this is the one they're going to need.

II. GEORGIA TECH AT VIRGINIA TECH, NOV. 4

Several games to pick from in the tough Coastal Division of the ACC. We like this one as a curiosity factor to see if the Hokies can stop the triple-option after holding the Jackets to one completed pass last season ... and losing 28-23.

12. SOUTH CAROLINA AT FLORIDA, NOV. 13

Imagine if South Carolina's Steve Spurrier is able to finally break through in the SEC East ... and do it in The Swamp.

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SCOPING THE NATION

SNEAK PEEK

Here is our annual look at the best prospects for the next NFL Draft, courtesy of our pals at NFLDraftScout.com. Just as it was in the 2010 draft, it appears to be a super year for defensive linemen, with six in the top 11 and seven in the top 15.

While these are the guys who are the most intriguing to pro scouts heading into 2011, none can rest easy. Remember, at this time last year, everyone thought USC's super-athletic safety Taylor Mays was a lock to be, at worst, a top 10 pick. He wound up being the 49th player selected — not bad, as a second-round pick, but you never know a year away like this.

This is a full first-round of seniors, but the draft will end up being populated with a slew of juniors ... we just don't know which ones right now. Note that there are no receivers on this senior list, which makes it all the more likely we'll see Michael Floyd, A.J. Green, Julio Jones, Jonathan Baldwin and Ryan Broyles come out early.

One more thing to note: There are five senior defensive players from North Carolina on this Top 32. Amazing. And Robert Quinn could very well be the top junior prospect at defensive end.



Photo by Joe Robbins

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	SCHOOL
1.	Marvin Austin	DT	North Carolina
2.	Cameron Heyward	DT	Ohio State
3.	Gabe Carimi	OT	Wisconsin
4.	Adrian Clayborn	DE	Iowa
5.	Jake Locker	QB	Washington
6.	Stephen Paea	DT	Oregon State
7.	Prince Amukamara	CB	Nebraska
8.	Allen Bailey	DE	Miami
9.	Nate Solder	OT	Colorado
10.	Bruce Carter	OLB	North Carolina
11.	Greg Romeus	DE	Pittsburgh
12.	Christian Ponder	QB	Florida State
13.	Greg Jones	ILB	Michigan State
14.	Ras-I Dowling	CB	Virginia
15.	Jerrell Powe	DT	Mississippi
16.	Evan Royster	RB	Penn State
17.	Mike Pouncey	C	Florida
18.	Anthony Castonzo	OT	Boston College
19.	Von Miller	OLB	Texas A&M
20.	Deunta Williams	FS	North Carolina
21.	Sam Acho	DE	Texas
22.	Rodney Hudson	OG	Florida State
23.	DeMarco Murray	RB	Oklahoma
24.	DeAndre McDaniel	SS	Clemson
25.	Kendric Burney	CB	North Carolina
26.	Lee Ziemba	OT	Auburn
27.	Jeremy Beal	DE	Oklahoma
28.	Quan Sturdivant	ILB	North Carolina
29.	Jason Pinkston	OT	Pittsburgh
30.	Noel Devine	RB	West Virginia
31.	Curtis Brown	CB	Texas
32.	Weslye Saunders	TE	South Carolina

SIDELINES 2010

SIDELINE SIBLINGS

Molly, along with twin sister Brooke, are Kansas freshmen and Spirit Squad members. Both were on the pom squad at their Iowa high school and danced at the National Dance Academy.



RED RAIDER REVUE

Courtnei, a senior Theater and Dance major, always deserves a sideline curtain call. She is a third year member of the Texas Tech Pom Squad, hoping for Red Raider success this fall.

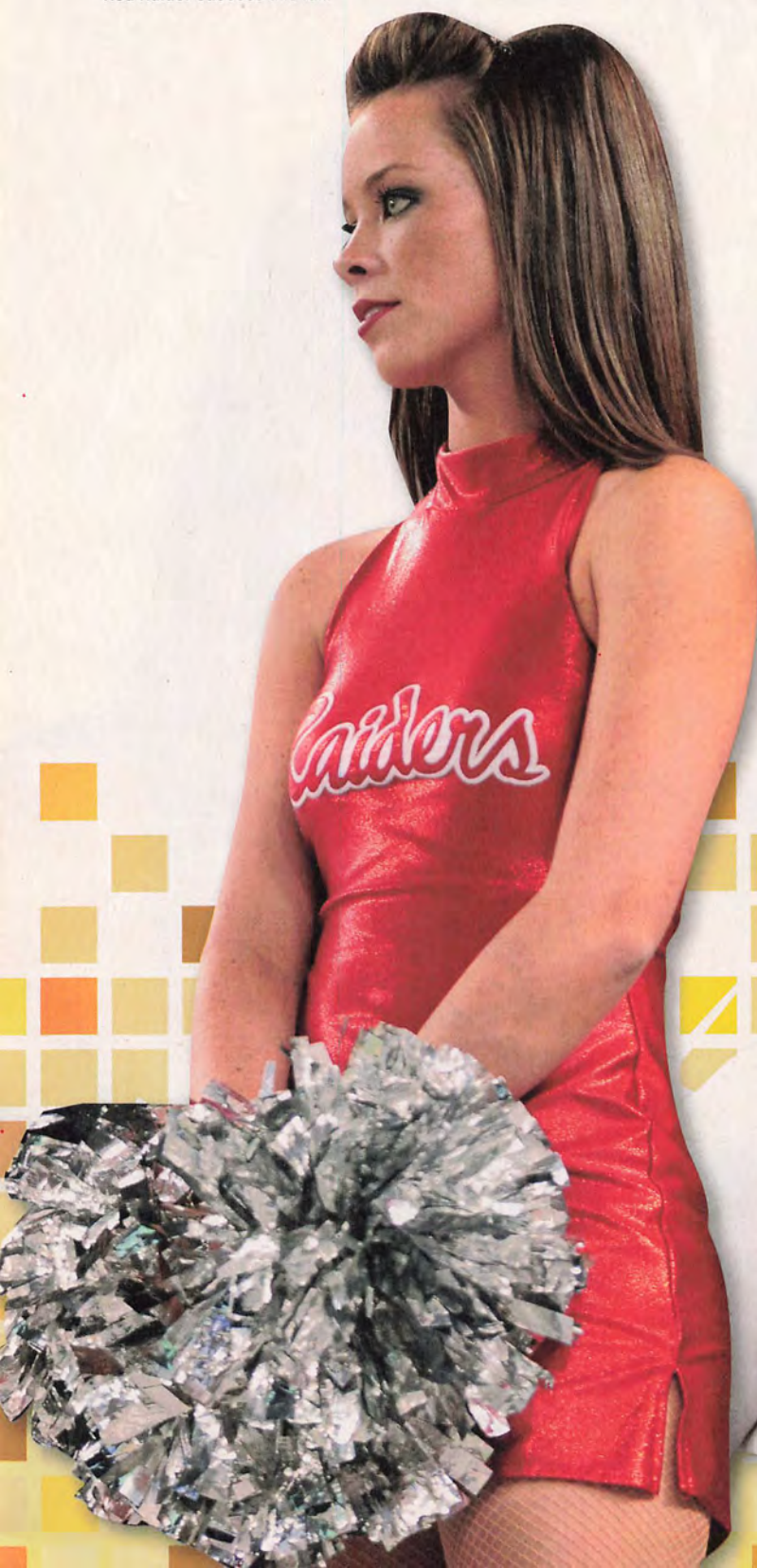
SALT LAKE SOOOEEY

Meghan, a Salt Lake City native, loves snowboarding, photography ... and the Arkansas Razorbacks. The Communications major is a four-year member of the Pom Squad.



TRABUCO TROJAN

Rachel, a senior, has been a USC Song Girl for one year. A Communications major, she hopes to be an entertainment broadcaster, and lives in Trabuco Canyon, Calif.





BAYSIDE BEAUTY

Atherton, Calif., near the San Francisco Bay, is home to Catherine, who goes by the nickname, Cat. The junior Communication and Business major is a USC Spirit Leader.

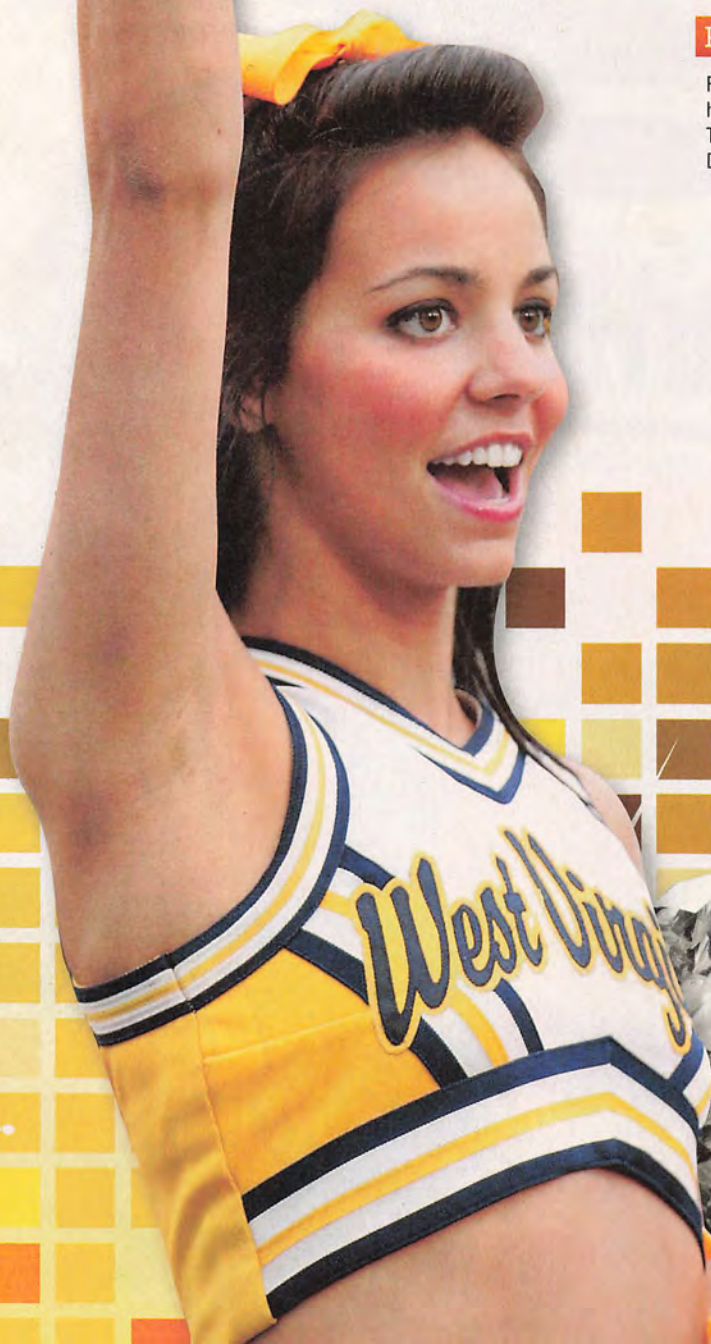


ALMOST HEAVEN

With Johnna on the sidelines, things are heavenly in Morgantown. She was a cheerleader for Kentucky and Hawai'i Pacific before returning to her hometown to cheer for West Virginia.

REBEL ROUSER

For Alexis, a freshman Psychology major, 2010 will be her second season of Saturday mornings in The Grove. The Covington, La., native is an Ole Miss Rebellette Dance Team member.



HEAD OVER HEELS

Brittany uses her head ... she's working on two majors (Psychology, Exercise and Sports Science) ... but she still finds time to cheer on the North Carolina Tar Heels. She is a junior from Hudson, NC.

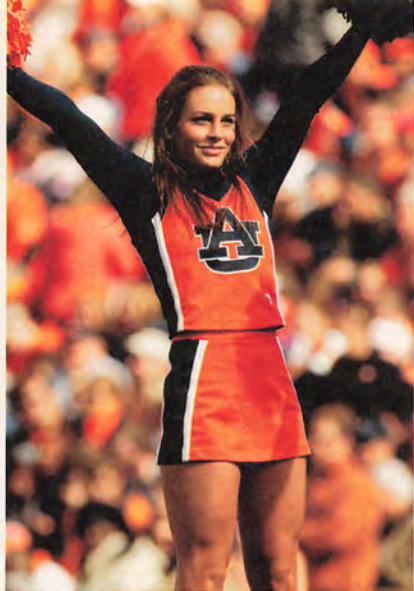
STRICTLY BUSINESS

Shea, a sophomore Communications major, wants a sports or entertainment career. For the first year USC Song Girl, Trojan football is serious business ... which, by the way, is her minor.

TICKLED PINK

Elise, an Economics major from Newport Coast, Calif., is a UCLA Spirit Squad member. Her favorite place to cheer – "The Rose Bowl, of course!" Her favorite color – pink.





◀ HOME SWEET HOME ▶

Laura has lived in four states, but is proud to call Auburn home. An Early Childhood Education major, the former gymnast is in her third year as a Tiger cheerleader.

PORTLAND PONY ▶

Taylor, a Portland, Ore. native, is a freshman member of the Southern Methodist Pom Squad. The Spanish major enjoys dancing, reading and building excitement for SMU.



CROSSING JORDAN ▶

A Broadcast Journalism major, Jordan is a TCU Showgirl. A veteran of several mission trips, she hopes her Horned Frogs make it to college football's promised land this season.

◀ NO BLUES FOR BRADY ▶

She is from Memphis, but Brady hopes her Mississippi State Bulldogs don't sing the blues this season. A three-year Pom Squad member, she is a Public Relations and Communications major.

SIC 'EM BEARS

Julie, a Business Management major, is a Baylor Coed Yell Leader. The junior from Richmond, Tex., hopes to help put some bite back into Bear football.

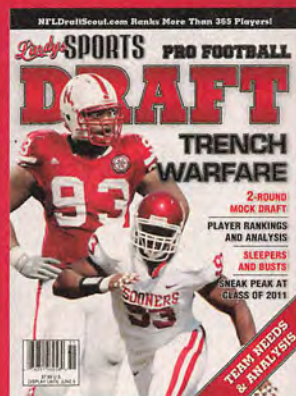
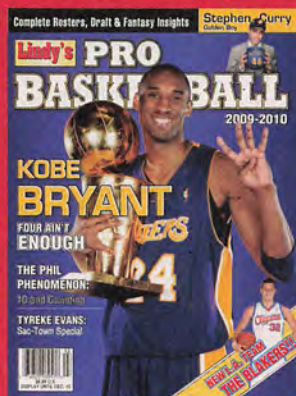
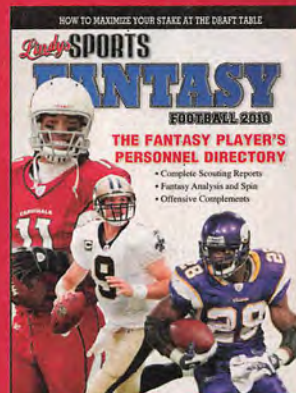
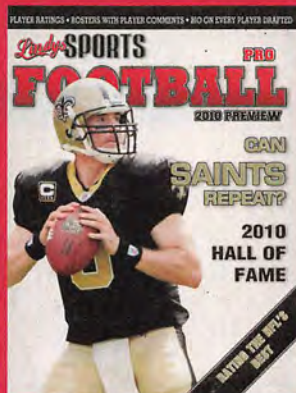
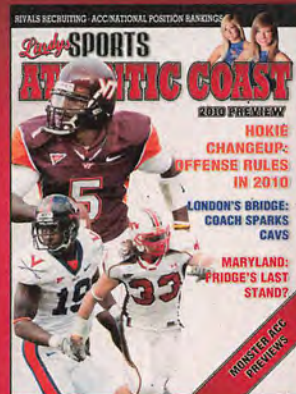
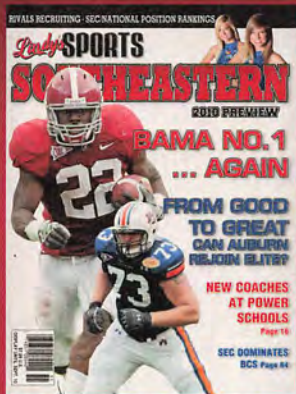
OAKIE IN OXFORD

Garrett came a long way to support the Ole Miss Rebels. A freshman Rebellettes Dance Team member, the Accounting major calls Edmond, Okla. home.

DOING DOUBLE DUTY

Michigan cheerleaders Katie (left), a senior Chemical Engineering major, along with Tomi, a senior majoring in Neuroscience, hope to cheer on a resurgence in Big Blue football.





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ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE

Sept. 4 WEBER STATE
Sept. 11 KENT STATE
Sept. 25 VIRGINIA TECH
Oct. 2 NOTRE DAME
Oct. 9 at NC State
Oct. 16 at Florida State
Oct. 23 MARYLAND
Oct. 30 CLEMSON
Nov. 6 at Wake Forest
Nov. 13 at Duke
Nov. 20 VIRGINIA
Nov. 27 at Syracuse

CLEMSON

Sept. 4 NORTH TEXAS
Sept. 11 PRESBYTERIAN
Sept. 18 at Auburn
Oct. 2 MIAMI
Oct. 9 at North Carolina
Oct. 16 MARYLAND
Oct. 23 GEORGIA TECH
Oct. 30 at Boston College
Nov. 6 NC STATE
Nov. 13 at Florida State
Nov. 20 at Wake Forest
Nov. 27 SOUTH CAROLINA

DUKE

Sept. 4 ELON
Sept. 11 at Wake Forest
Sept. 18 ALABAMA
Sept. 25 ARMY
Oct. 2 at Maryland
Oct. 16 MIAMI
Oct. 23 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 30 at Navy
Nov. 6 VIRGINIA
Nov. 13 BOSTON COLLEGE
Nov. 20 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 27 NORTH CAROLINA

FLORIDA STATE

Sept. 4 SAMFORD
Sept. 11 at Oklahoma
Sept. 18 BYU
Sept. 25 WAKE FOREST
Oct. 2 at Virginia
Oct. 9 at Miami
Oct. 16 BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 23 at NC State
Nov. 6 NORTH CAROLINA
Nov. 13 CLEMSON
Nov. 20 at Florida
Nov. 27 FLORIDA

GEORGIA TECH

Sept. 4 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Sept. 11 at Kansas
Sept. 18 at North Carolina
Sept. 25 NC STATE
Oct. 2 at Wake Forest
Oct. 9 VIRGINIA
Oct. 16 MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
Oct. 23 at Clemson
Nov. 4 at Virginia Tech
Nov. 13 MIAMI
Nov. 20 DUKE
Nov. 27 at Georgia

MARYLAND

Sept. 6 NAVY
Sept. 11 MORGAN STATE
Sept. 18 at West Virginia
Sept. 25 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Oct. 2 DUKE
Oct. 16 at Clemson
Oct. 23 at Boston College
Oct. 30 WAKE FOREST
Nov. 6 at Miami
Nov. 13 at Virginia

Nov. 20 FLORIDA STATE
Nov. 27 NC STATE

MIAMI

Sept. 2 FLORIDA A&M
Sept. 11 at Ohio State
Sept. 23 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 2 at Clemson
Oct. 9 FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 16 at Duke
Oct. 23 NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 30 at Virginia
Nov. 6 MARYLAND
Nov. 13 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 20 VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 27 USF

NORTH CAROLINA

Sept. 4 vs. LSU (Atlanta)
Sept. 11 GEORGIA TECH
Sept. 25 at Rutgers
Oct. 2 EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 9 CLEMSON
Oct. 16 at Virginia
Oct. 23 at Miami
Oct. 30 WILLIAM & MARY
Nov. 6 at Florida State
Nov. 13 VIRGINIA TECH
Nov. 20 NC STATE
Nov. 27 at Duke

NC STATE

Sept. 4 WESTERN CAROLINA
Sept. 11 at Central Florida
Sept. 16 CINCINNATI
Sept. 25 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 2 VIRGINIA TECH
Oct. 9 BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 16 at East Carolina
Oct. 23 FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 30 at Navy
Nov. 6 WAKE FOREST
Nov. 13 at North Carolina
Nov. 20 at Maryland

VIRGINIA

Sept. 4 RICHMOND
Sept. 11 at USC
Sept. 25 VMI
Oct. 2 FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 9 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 16 NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 23 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 30 MIAMI
Nov. 6 at Duke
Nov. 13 MARYLAND
Nov. 20 at Boston College
Nov. 27 at Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH

Sept. 6 vs. Boise State (Landover, MD)
Sept. 11 JAMES MADISON
Sept. 18 EAST CAROLINA
Sept. 25 at Boston College
Oct. 2 at NC State
Oct. 9 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 16 WAKE FOREST
Oct. 23 DUKE
Oct. 30 GEORGIA TECH
Nov. 6 at North Carolina
Nov. 13 at Miami
Nov. 20 VIRGINIA

WAKE FOREST

Sept. 2 PRESBYTERIAN
Sept. 11 DUKE
Sept. 18 at Stanford
Sept. 25 at Florida State
Oct. 2 GEORGIA TECH
Oct. 9 NAVY
Oct. 16 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 23 at Maryland
Nov. 6 BOSTON COLLEGE
Nov. 13 at NC State

Nov. 20 CLEMSON
Nov. 27 at Vanderbilt

BIG EAST

CINCINNATI

Sept. 4 at Fresno State
Sept. 11 INDIANA STATE
Sept. 16 at NC State
Sept. 25 vs. Oklahoma
Oct. 9 MIAMI (OH)
Oct. 15 at Louisville
Oct. 22 SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 30 SYRACUSE
Nov. 13 at West Virginia
Nov. 20 RUTGERS
Nov. 27 at Connecticut
Nov. 4 PITTSBURGH

CONNECTICUT

Sept. 4 at Michigan
Sept. 11 TEXAS SOUTHERN
Sept. 18 at Temple
Sept. 25 BUFFALO
Oct. 2 VANDERBILT
Oct. 8 at Rutgers
Oct. 23 at Louisville
Oct. 29 WEST VIRGINIA
Nov. 11 PITTSBURGH
Nov. 20 at Syracuse
Nov. 27 CINCINNATI
Dec. 4 at South Florida

LOUISVILLE

Sept. 4 KENTUCKY
Sept. 11 EASTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 18 at Oregon State
Oct. 2 at Arkansas State
Oct. 9 MEMPHIS
Oct. 15 CINCINNATI
Oct. 23 CONNECTICUT
Oct. 30 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 6 at Syracuse
Nov. 13 SOUTH FLORIDA
Nov. 20 WEST VIRGINIA
Nov. 26 at Rutgers

PITTSBURGH

Sept. 2 at Utah
Sept. 11 NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sept. 23 MIAMI
Oct. 2 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Oct. 9 at Notre Dame
Oct. 16 at Syracuse
Oct. 23 RUTGERS
Oct. 30 LOUISVILLE
Nov. 11 at Connecticut
Nov. 20 at South Florida
Nov. 26 WEST VIRGINIA
Dec. 4 at Cincinnati

RUTGERS

Sept. 2 NORFOLK STATE
Sept. 11 at Florida International
Sept. 25 NORTH CAROLINA
Oct. 2 TULANE
Oct. 8 CONNECTICUT
Oct. 16 ARMY
Oct. 23 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 3 at SOUTH FLORIDA
Nov. 13 SYRACUSE
Nov. 20 at Cincinnati
Nov. 26 LOUISVILLE
Dec. 4 at West Virginia

SOUTH FLORIDA

Sept. 4 STONY BROOK
Sept. 11 at Florida
Sept. 25 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 2 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Oct. 9 SYRACUSE
Oct. 14 at West Virginia

Oct. 22 at Cincinnati
Nov. 3 RUTGERS
Nov. 13 at Louisville
Nov. 20 PITTSBURGH
Nov. 27 at Miami
Dec. 4 CONNECTICUT

SYRACUSE

Sept. 4 at Akron
Sept. 11 at Washington
Sept. 18 MAINE
Sept. 25 COLGATE
Oct. 9 at South Florida
Oct. 16 PITTSBURGH
Oct. 23 at West Virginia
Oct. 30 at Cincinnati
Nov. 6 LOUISVILLE
Nov. 13 at Rutgers
Nov. 20 CONNECTICUT
Nov. 27 BOSTON COLLEGE

WEST VIRGINIA

Sept. 4 COASTAL CAROLINA
Sept. 10 at Marshall
Sept. 18 MARYLAND
Sept. 25 at LSU
Oct. 9 UNLV
Oct. 14 SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 23 SYRACUSE
Oct. 29 at Connecticut
Nov. 13 CINCINNATI
Nov. 20 at Louisville
Nov. 26 at Pittsburgh
Dec. 4 RUTGERS

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS

Sept. 4 vs. Missouri (St. Louis)
Sept. 11 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 18 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 2 OHIO STATE
Oct. 9 at Penn State
Oct. 16 at Michigan State
Oct. 23 INDIANA
Oct. 30 PURDUE
Nov. 6 at Michigan
Nov. 13 MINNESOTA
Nov. 20 at Northwestern
Dec. 3 at Fresno State

INDIANA

Sept. 2 TOWSON
Sept. 18 at Western Kentucky
Sept. 25 AKRON
Oct. 2 MICHIGAN
Oct. 9 at Ohio State
Oct. 16 ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 23 at Illinois
Oct. 30 NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 6 IOWA
Nov. 13 at Wisconsin
Nov. 20 vs. Penn State (Landover, MD)
Nov. 27 at Purdue

IOWA

Sept. 4 EASTERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 11 IOWA STATE
Sept. 18 at Arizona
Sept. 25 BALL STATE
Oct. 2 PENN STATE
Oct. 16 at Michigan
Oct. 23 WISCONSIN
Oct. 30 MICHIGAN STATE
Nov. 6 at Indiana
Nov. 13 at Northwestern
Nov. 20 OHIO STATE
Nov. 27 at Minnesota

MICHIGAN

Sept. 4 CONNECTICUT
Sept. 11 at Notre Dame
Sept. 18 MASSACHUSETTS
Sept. 25 BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 2 at Indiana
Oct. 9 MICHIGAN STATE
Oct. 16 IOWA
Oct. 30 at Penn State
Nov. 6 ILLINOIS
Nov. 13 at Purdue
Nov. 20 WISCONSIN
Nov. 27 at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE

Sept. 4 WESTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 11 vs. Florida Atlantic (Detroit)
Sept. 18 NOTRE DAME
Sept. 25 NORTHERN COLORADO
Oct. 2 WISCONSIN
Oct. 9 at Michigan
Oct. 16 ILLINOIS
Oct. 23 at Northwestern
Oct. 30 at Iowa
Nov. 6 MINNESOTA
Nov. 20 PURDUE
Nov. 27 at Penn State

MINNESOTA

Sept. 2 at Middle Tennessee State
Sept. 11 SOUTH DAKOTA
Sept. 18 USC
Sept. 25 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 2 NORTHWESTERN
Oct. 9 at Wisconsin
Oct. 16 at Purdue
Oct. 23 PENN STATE
Oct. 30 OHIO STATE
Nov. 6 at Michigan State
Nov. 13 at Illinois
Nov. 27 IOWA

NORTHWESTERN

Sept. 4 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 11 ILLINOIS STATE
Sept. 18 at Rice
Sept. 25 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 2 at Minnesota
Oct. 9 PURDUE
Oct. 23 MICHIGAN STATE
Oct. 30 at Indiana
Nov. 6 at Penn State
Nov. 13 IOWA
Nov. 20 ILLINOIS
Nov. 27 at Wisconsin

OHIO STATE

Sept. 2 MARSHALL
Sept. 11 MIAMI (FL)
Sept. 18 OHIO
Sept. 25 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 2 at Illinois
Oct. 9 INDIANA
Oct. 16 at Wisconsin
Oct. 23 PURDUE
Oct. 30 at Minnesota
Nov. 13 PENN STATE
Nov. 20 at Iowa
Nov. 27 MICHIGAN

PENN STATE

Sept. 4 YOUNGSTOWN STATE
Sept. 11 at Alabama
Sept. 18 KENT STATE
Sept. 25 TEMPLE
Oct. 2 at Iowa
Oct. 9 ILLINOIS
Oct. 23 at Minnesota
Oct. 30 MICHIGAN
Nov. 6 NORTHWESTERN
Nov. 13 at Ohio State
Nov. 20 vs. Indiana (Landover, MD)
Nov. 27 MICHIGAN STATE

PURDUE

Sept. 4 at Notre Dame
Sept. 11 WESTERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 18 BALL STATE
Sept. 25 TOLEDO
Oct. 2 at Northwestern
Oct. 16 MINNESOTA
Oct. 23 at Ohio State
Oct. 30 at Illinois
Nov. 6 WISCONSIN
Nov. 13 MICHIGAN
Nov. 20 at Michigan State
Nov. 27 INDIANA

WISCONSIN

Sept. 4 at UNLV
Sept. 11 SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 18 ARIZONA STATE
Sept. 25 AUSTIN PEAY
Oct. 2 at Michigan State
Oct. 9 MINNESOTA
Oct. 16 OHIO STATE
Oct. 23 at Iowa
Nov. 6 at Purdue
Nov. 13 INDIANA
Nov. 20 at Michigan
Nov. 27 NORTHWESTERN

BIG 12

BAYLOR

Sept. 4 SAM HOUSTON STATE
Sept. 11 BUFFALO
Sept. 18 at TCU
Sept. 25 at Rice
Oct. 2 KANSAS
Oct. 9 vs. Texas Tech (Dallas)
Oct. 16 at Colorado
Oct. 23 KANSAS STATE
Oct. 30 at Texas
Nov. 6 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 13 TEXAS A&M
Nov. 20 OKLAHOMA

COLORADO

Sept. 4 vs. Colorado State (Denver)
Sept. 11 at California
Sept. 18 HAWAII
Oct. 2 GEORGIA

Oct. 9 at Missouri
Oct. 16 BAYLOR
Oct. 23 TEXAS TECH
Oct. 30 at Oklahoma
Nov. 6 at Kansas
Nov. 13 IOWA STATE
Nov. 20 KANSAS STATE
Nov. 26 at Nebraska

IOWA STATE

Sept. 2 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Sept. 11 at Iowa
Sept. 18 at Kansas State
Sept. 25 NORTHERN IOWA
Oct. 2 TEXAS TECH
Oct. 9 UTAH
Oct. 16 at Oklahoma
Oct. 23 at Texas
Oct. 30 KANSAS
Nov. 6 NEBRASKA
Nov. 13 at Colorado
Nov. 20 MISSOURI

KANSAS

Sept. 4 NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Sept. 11 GEORGIA TECH
Sept. 17 at Southern Miss
Sept. 25 NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 2 at Baylor
Oct. 16 KANSAS STATE
Oct. 23 TEXAS A&M
Oct. 30 at Iowa State
Nov. 6 COLORADO
Nov. 13 at Nebraska
Nov. 20 OKLAHOMA STATE
Nov. 27 vs. Missouri (Kansas City)

KANSAS STATE

Sept. 4 UCLA
Sept. 11 MISSOURI STATE
Sept. 18 at Iowa State
Sept. 25 CENTRAL FLORIDA
Oct. 2 NEBRASKA
Oct. 16 at Kansas
Oct. 23 at Baylor
Oct. 30 OKLAHOMA STATE
Nov. 6 TEXAS
Nov. 13 at Missouri
Nov. 20 at Colorado
Nov. 27 at North Texas

MISSOURI

Sept. 4 vs. Illinois (St. Louis)
Sept. 11 MCNEESE STATE
Sept. 18 SAN DIEGO STATE
Sept. 25 MIAMI (OH)
Oct. 9 COLORADO
Oct. 16 at Texas A&M
Oct. 23 OKLAHOMA
Oct. 30 at Nebraska
Nov. 6 at Texas Tech
Nov. 13 KANSAS STATE
Nov. 20 at Iowa State
Nov. 27 vs. Kansas (Kansas City)

NEBRASKA

Sept. 4 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 11 IDAHO
Sept. 18 at Washington
Sept. 25 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Oct. 7 TEXAS
Oct. 16 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 23 MISSOURI
Oct. 30 at Iowa State
Nov. 6 KANSAS
Nov. 13 at Texas A&M
Nov. 26 COLORADO

OKLAHOMA

Sept. 4 UTAH STATE
Sept. 11 FLORIDA STATE
Sept. 18 AIR FORCE
Sept. 25 at Cincinnati
Oct. 2 vs. Texas (Dallas)
Oct. 16 IOWA STATE
Oct. 23 at Missouri
Oct. 30 COLORADO
Nov. 6 at Texas A&M
Nov. 13 TEXAS TECH
Nov. 20 at Baylor
Nov. 27 at Oklahoma State

OKLAHOMA STATE

Sept. 4 WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 11 TROY
Sept. 18 TULSA
Sept. 25 TEXAS A&M
Oct. 8 at Louisiana
Oct. 16 at Texas Tech
Oct. 23 NEBRASKA
Oct. 30 at Kansas State
Nov. 6 BAYLOR
Nov. 13 at Texas
Nov. 20 at Kansas
Nov. 27 OKLAHOMA

Wrangler

TEXAS

Sept. 4 vs. Rice (Reliant Stadium)
Sept. 11 WYOMING
Sept. 18 at Texas Tech
Sept. 25 UCLA
Oct. 2 vs. Oklahoma (Dallas)
Oct. 16 at Nebraska
Oct. 23 IOWA STATE
Oct. 30 BAYLOR
Nov. 6 at Kansas State
Nov. 13 OKLAHOMA STATE
Nov. 20 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 25 TEXAS A&M

TEXAS A&M

Sept. 4 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Sept. 11 LOUISIANA TECH
Sept. 18 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Sept. 30 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 9 vs. Arkansas (Arlington, TX)
Oct. 16 MISSOURI
Oct. 23 at Kansas
Oct. 30 TEXAS TECH
Nov. 6 OKLAHOMA
Nov. 13 at Baylor
Nov. 20 NEBRASKA
Nov. 25 at Texas

TEXAS TECH

Sept. 5 SMU
Sept. 11 at New Mexico
Sept. 18 TEXAS
Oct. 2 at Iowa State
Oct. 9 vs. Baylor (Dallas)
Oct. 16 OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 23 at Colorado
Oct. 30 at Texas A&M
Nov. 6 MISSOURI
Nov. 13 at Oklahoma
Nov. 20 WEBER STATE
Nov. 27 HOUSTON

C-USA

EAST CAROLINA

Sept. 5 TULSA
Sept. 11 MEMPHIS
Sept. 18 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 2 at North Carolina
Oct. 9 at Southern Miss
Oct. 16 NC STATE
Oct. 23 MARSHALL
Oct. 30 at UCF
Nov. 6 NAVY
Nov. 13 at UAB
Nov. 20 at Rice
Nov. 27 SMU

HOUSTON

Sept. 4 TEXAS STATE
Sept. 10 UTEP
Sept. 18 at UCLA
Sept. 25 TULANE
Oct. 9 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Oct. 16 at Rice
Oct. 23 at SMU
Oct. 30 at Memphis
Nov. 5 UCF
Nov. 13 TULSA
Nov. 20 at Southern Miss
Nov. 27 at Texas Tech

MARSHALL

Sept. 2 at Ohio State
Sept. 10 WEST VIRGINIA
Sept. 18 at Bowling Green
Sept. 25 OHIO
Oct. 2 at Southern Miss
Oct. 13 UCF
Oct. 23 at East Carolina
Oct. 30 UTEP
Nov. 6 at UAB
Nov. 13 MEMPHIS

Nov. 20 at SMU
Nov. 27 TULANE

MEMPHIS

Sept. 4 at Mississippi State
Sept. 11 at East Carolina
Sept. 18 MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
Sept. 25 at UTEP
Oct. 2 TULSA
Oct. 9 at Louisville
Oct. 16 SOUTHERN MISS
Oct. 30 HOUSTON
Nov. 6 TENNESSEE
Nov. 13 at Marshall
Nov. 20 at UAB
Nov. 27 UCF

RICE

Sept. 4 vs. Texas (Reliant Stadium)
Sept. 11 at North Texas
Sept. 18 NORTHWESTERN
Sept. 25 BAYLOR
Oct. 2 SMU
Oct. 9 at UTEP
Oct. 16 HOUSTON
Oct. 23 at UCF
Nov. 6 at Tulsa
Nov. 13 at Tulane
Nov. 20 EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 27 UAB

SMU

Sept. 5 at Texas Tech
Sept. 11 UAB
Sept. 18 WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 24 TCU
Oct. 2 at Rice
Oct. 9 TULSA
Oct. 16 at Navy
Oct. 23 HOUSTON
Oct. 30 at Tulane
Nov. 6 at UTEP
Nov. 13 MARSHALL
Nov. 20 at East Carolina

SOUTHERN MISS

Sept. 2 at South Carolina
Sept. 11 PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Sept. 17 KANSAS
Sept. 25 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 2 MARSHALL
Oct. 9 EAST CAROLINA
Oct. 16 at Memphis
Oct. 30 UAB
Nov. 6 at Tulane
Nov. 13 at UCF
Nov. 20 HOUSTON
Nov. 27 at Tulsa

TULANE

Sept. 4 SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Sept. 11 OLE MISS
Sept. 25 at Houston
Oct. 2 at Rutgers
Oct. 9 ARMY
Oct. 16 at Tulsa
Oct. 23 at UTEP
Oct. 30 SMU
Nov. 6 SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 13 RICE
Nov. 20 UCF
Nov. 27 at Marshall

TULSA

Sept. 5 at East Carolina
Sept. 11 BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 18 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 25 CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Oct. 2 at Memphis
Oct. 9 at SMU
Oct. 16 TULANE
Oct. 30 at Notre Dame
Nov. 6 RICE
Nov. 13 at Houston
Nov. 20 UTEP
Nov. 27 SOUTHERN MISS

UAB

Sept. 4 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Sept. 11 at SMU
Sept. 18 TROY
Sept. 25 at Tennessee
Oct. 6 at UCF
Oct. 16 UTEP
Oct. 23 at Mississippi State
Oct. 30 at Southern Miss
Nov. 6 MARSHALL
Nov. 11 EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 20 MEMPHIS
Nov. 27 at Rice

UCF

Sept. 4 SOUTH DAKOTA
Sept. 11 NC STATE
Sept. 18 at Buffalo
Sept. 25 at Kansas State
Oct. 6 UAB
Oct. 13 at Marshall
Oct. 23 RICE
Oct. 30 EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 5 at Houston
Nov. 13 SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 20 at Tulane
Nov. 27 at Memphis

UTEP

Sept. 4 ARKANSAS - PINE BLUFF
Sept. 10 at Houston
Sept. 18 NEW MEXICO STATE
Sept. 25 MEMPHIS
Oct. 2 at New Mexico
Oct. 9 RICE
Oct. 16 at UAB
Oct. 23 TULANE
Oct. 30 at Marshall
Nov. 6 SMU
Nov. 13 at Arkansas
Nov. 20 at Tulsa

I-A INDEPENDENTS

ARMY

Sept. 4 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 11 HAWAII
Sept. 18 NORTH TEXAS
Sept. 25 at Duke
Oct. 2 TEMPLE
Oct. 9 at Tulane
Oct. 16 at Rutgers
Oct. 30 VMI
Nov. 6 AIR FORCE
Nov. 13 at Kent State
Nov. 20 vs. Notre Dame (Yankee Stadium)
Dec. 11 vs. Navy (Philadelphia)

NAVY

Sept. 6 MARYLAND
Sept. 11 GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Sept. 18 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 2 at Air Force
Oct. 9 at Wake Forest
Oct. 16 SMU
Oct. 23 vs. Notre Dame (East Rutherford, NJ)
Oct. 30 DUKE
Nov. 6 at East Carolina
Nov. 13 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Nov. 20 ARKANSAS STATE
Dec. 11 vs. Army (Philadelphia)

NOTRE DAME

Sept. 4 PURDUE
Sept. 11 MICHIGAN
Sept. 18 at Michigan State
Sept. 25 STANFORD
Oct. 2 at Boston College
Oct. 9 PITTSBURGH
Oct. 16 WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 23 vs. Navy (East Rutherford, NJ)

Oct. 30 TULSA
Nov. 13 UTAH
Nov. 20 vs. Army (Yankee Stadium)
Nov. 27 at USC

MAC

AKRON

Sept. 4 SYRACUSE
Sept. 11 GARDNER-WEBB
Sept. 18 at Kentucky
Sept. 25 at Indiana
Oct. 2 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Oct. 9 at Kent State
Oct. 16 at Ohio
Oct. 23 WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 30 at Temple
Nov. 6 at Ball State
Nov. 17 MIAMI (OH)
Nov. 26 BUFFALO

BALL STATE

Sept. 2 SOUTHEAST MISSOURI ST.
Sept. 11 LIBERTY
Sept. 18 at Purdue
Sept. 25 at Iowa
Oct. 2 at Central Michigan
Oct. 9 WESTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 16 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 23 at Toledo
Oct. 30 at Kent State
Nov. 6 AKRON
Nov. 12 at Buffalo
Nov. 20 NORTHERN ILLINOIS

BOWLING GREEN

Sept. 4 at Troy
Sept. 11 at Tulsa
Sept. 18 MARSHALL
Sept. 25 at Michigan
Oct. 2 BUFFALO
Oct. 9 at Ohio
Oct. 16 at Temple
Oct. 23 KENT STATE
Oct. 30 at Central Michigan
Nov. 10 MIAMI (OH)
Nov. 17 at Toledo
Nov. 26 WESTERN MICHIGAN

BUFFALO

Sept. 2 RHODE ISLAND
Sept. 11 at Baylor
Sept. 18 UCF
Sept. 25 at Connecticut
Oct. 2 at Bowling Green
Oct. 16 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 23 TEMPLE
Oct. 30 MIAMI (OH)
Nov. 4 at Ohio
Nov. 12 BALL STATE
Nov. 20 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 26 at Akron

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Sept. 2 HAMPTON
Sept. 11 at Temple
Sept. 18 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 25 at Northwestern
Oct. 2 BALL STATE
Oct. 9 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 16 MIAMI (OH)
Oct. 23 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 30 BOWLING GREEN
Nov. 5 WESTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 13 at Navy
Nov. 26 at Toledo

EASTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 4 ARMY
Sept. 11 at Miami (OH)
Sept. 18 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 25 at Ohio State
Oct. 2 OHIO
Oct. 9 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 16 at Ball State
Oct. 23 at Virginia
Oct. 30 TOLEDO
Nov. 13 at Western Michigan
Nov. 20 at Buffalo
Nov. 26 NORTHERN ILLINOIS

KENT STATE

Sept. 2 MURRAY STATE
Sept. 11 at Boston College
Sept. 18 at Penn State
Oct. 2 at Miami (OH)
Oct. 9 AKRON
Oct. 16 at Toledo
Oct. 23 at Bowling Green
Oct. 30 BALL STATE
Nov. 6 TEMPLE
Nov. 13 ARMY
Nov. 20 at Western Michigan

Nov. 26 OHIO

MIAMI (OH)

Sept. 4 at Florida
Sept. 11 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 18 COLORADO STATE
Sept. 25 at Missouri
Oct. 2 KENT STATE
Oct. 9 at Cincinnati
Oct. 16 at Central Michigan
Oct. 23 OHIO
Oct. 30 at Buffalo
Nov. 10 at Bowling Green
Nov. 17 at Akron
Nov. 23 TEMPLE

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Sept. 2 at Iowa State
Sept. 11 NORTH DAKOTA
Sept. 18 at Illinois
Sept. 25 at Minnesota
Oct. 2 at Akron
Oct. 9 TEMPLE
Oct. 16 BUFFALO
Oct. 23 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Oct. 30 at Western Michigan
Nov. 9 TOLEDO
Nov. 20 at Ball State
Nov. 26 at Eastern Michigan

OHIO

Sept. 4 WOFFORD
Sept. 11 TOLEDO
Sept. 18 at Ohio State
Sept. 25 at Marshall
Oct. 2 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 9 BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 16 AKRON
Oct. 23 at Miami (OH)
Oct. 30 Louisiana
Nov. 4 BUFFALO
Nov. 16 at Temple
Nov. 26 at Kent State

TEMPLE

Sept. 4 VILLANOVA
Sept. 11 CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 18 CONNECTICUT
Sept. 25 at Penn State
Oct. 2 at Army
Oct. 9 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 16 BOWLING GREEN
Oct. 23 at Buffalo
Oct. 30 AKRON
Nov. 6 at Kent State
Nov. 16 OHIO
Nov. 23 at Miami (Ohio)

TOLEDO

Sept. 3 ARIZONA
Sept. 11 at Ohio
Sept. 18 at Western Michigan
Sept. 25 at Purdue
Oct. 2 WYOMING
Oct. 9 at Boise State
Oct. 16 KENT STATE
Oct. 23 BALL STATE
Oct. 30 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 9 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 17 BOWLING GREEN
Nov. 26 CENTRAL MICHIGAN

WESTERN MICHIGAN

Sept. 4 at Michigan State
Sept. 11 NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 18 TOLEDO
Oct. 2 IDAHO
Oct. 9 at Ball State
Oct. 16 at Notre Dame
Oct. 23 at Akron
Oct. 30 NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 5 at Central Michigan
Nov. 13 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Nov. 20 KENT STATE
Nov. 26 at Bowling Green

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE

Sept. 4 NORTHWESTERN STATE
Sept. 11 BYU
Sept. 18 at Oklahoma
Sept. 25 at Wyoming
Oct. 2 COLORADO STATE
Oct. 9 at San Diego State
Oct. 16 at TCU
Oct. 23 at Air Force
Nov. 6 TCU
Nov. 13 at Notre Dame
Nov. 20 at San Diego State
Nov. 27 BYU

BYU

Sept. 4 WASHINGTON
Sept. 11 at Air Force
Sept. 18 at Florida State

Sept. 25 NEVADA
Oct. 1 at Utah State
Oct. 9 SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 16 at TCU
Oct. 23 WYOMING
Nov. 6 UNLV
Nov. 13 at Colorado State
Nov. 20 NEW MEXICO
Nov. 27 at Utah

COLORADO STATE

Sept. 4 vs. Colorado (Denver)
Sept. 11 at Nevada
Sept. 18 at Miami (OH)
Sept. 25 IDAHO
Oct. 2 TCU
Oct. 9 at Air Force
Oct. 16 UNLV
Oct. 23 at Utah
Oct. 30 NEW MEXICO
Nov. 6 at San Diego State
Nov. 13 BYU
Nov. 20 at Wyoming

NEW MEXICO

Sept. 4 at Oregon
Sept. 11 TEXAS TECH
Sept. 18 UTAH
Sept. 25 at UNLV
Oct. 2 UTEP
Oct. 9 at New Mexico State
Oct. 23 SAN DIEGO STATE
Oct. 30 at Colorado State
Nov. 6 WYOMING
Nov. 13 at Air Force
Nov. 20 at BYU
Nov. 27 TCU

SAN DIEGO STATE

Sept. 4 NICHOLLS STATE
Sept. 11 at New Mexico State
Sept. 18 at Missouri
Sept. 25 UTAH STATE
Oct. 9 at BYU
Oct. 16 AIR FORCE
Oct. 23 at New Mexico
Oct. 30 at Wyoming
Nov. 6 COLORADO STATE
Nov. 13 at TCU
Nov. 20 UTAH
Nov. 27 UNLV

TCU

Sept. 4 vs. Oregon State (Arlington, TX)
Sept. 11 TENNESSEE TECH
Sept. 18 BAYLOR
Sept. 24 at SMU
Oct. 2 at Colorado State
Oct. 9 WYOMING
Oct. 16 BYU
Oct. 23 AIR FORCE
Oct. 30 at UNLV
Nov. 6 at Utah
Nov. 13 SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 27 at New Mexico

UNLV

Sept. 4 WISCONSIN
Sept. 11 at Utah
Sept. 18 at Idaho
Sept. 25 NEW MEXICO
Oct. 2 NEVADA
Oct. 9 at West Virginia
Oct. 16 at Colorado State
Oct. 30 TCU
Nov. 6 at BYU
Nov. 13 WYOMING
Nov. 18 AIR FORCE
Nov. 27 at San Diego State
Dec. 4 at Hawaii

UTAH

Sept. 2 PITTSBURGH
Sept. 11 UNLV
Sept. 18 at New Mexico
Sept. 25 SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 9 at Iowa State
Oct. 16 at Wyoming
Oct. 23 COLORADO STATE
Oct. 30 at Air Force
Nov. 6 TCU
Nov. 13 at Notre Dame
Nov. 20 at San Diego State
Nov. 27 BYU

WYOMING

Sept. 4 SOUTHERN UTAH
Sept. 11 at Texas
Sept. 18 BOISE STATE
Sept. 25 AIR FORCE
Oct. 2 at Toledo
Oct. 9 at TCU
Oct. 16 UTAH
Oct. 23 at BYU
Oct. 30 SAN DIEGO STATE
Nov. 6 at New Mexico
Nov. 13 at UNLV
Nov. 20 COLORADO STATE

PAC-10

ARIZONA

Sept. 3 at Toledo
Sept. 11 CITADEL
Sept. 18 IOWA
Sept. 25 CALIFORNIA
Oct. 9 OREGON STATE
Oct. 16 at Washington State
Oct. 23 WASHINGTON
Oct. 30 at UCLA
Nov. 6 at Stanford
Nov. 13 USC
Nov. 26 at Oregon
Dec. 2 ARIZONA STATE

ARIZONA STATE

Sept. 4 PORTLAND STATE
Sept. 11 NORTHERN ARIZONA
Sept. 18 at Wisconsin
Sept. 25 OREGON
Oct. 2 at Oregon State
Oct. 9 at Washington
Oct. 23 at California
Oct. 30 WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 6 at USC
Nov. 13 STANFORD
Nov. 26 UCLA
Dec. 2 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA

Sept. 4 UC DAVIS
Sept. 11 COLORADO
Sept. 17 at Nevada
Sept. 25 at Arizona
Oct. 9 UCLA
Oct. 16 at USC
Oct. 23 ARIZONA STATE
Oct. 30 at Oregon State
Nov. 6 at Washington State
Nov. 13 OREGON
Nov. 20 STANFORD
Nov. 27 WASHINGTON

OREGON

Sept. 4 NEW MEXICO
Sept. 11 at Tennessee
Sept. 18 PORTLAND STATE
Sept. 25 at Arizona State
Oct. 2 STANFORD
Oct. 9 at Washington State
Oct. 21 UCLA
Oct. 30 at USC
Nov. 6 WASHINGTON
Nov. 13 at California
Nov. 26 ARIZONA
Dec. 4 at Oregon State

OREGON STATE

Sept. 4 vs. TCU (Arlington, TX)
Sept. 18 LOUISVILLE
Sept. 25 at Boise State
Oct. 2 ARIZONA STATE
Oct. 9 at Arizona
Oct. 16 at Washington
Oct. 30 CALIFORNIA
Nov. 6 at UCLA
Nov. 13 WASHINGTON STATE
Nov. 20 USC
Nov. 27 at Stanford
Dec. 4 OREGON

STANFORD

Sept. 4 SACRAMENTO STATE
Sept. 11 at UCLA
Sept. 18 WAKE FOREST
Sept. 25 at Notre Dame
Oct. 2 at Oregon
Oct. 9 USC
Oct. 23 WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 30 at Washington
Nov. 6 ARIZONA
Nov. 13 at Arizona State
Nov. 20 at California
Nov. 27 OREGON STATE

UCLA

Sept. 4 at Kansas State
Sept. 11 STANFORD
Sept. 18 HOUSTON
Sept. 25 at Texas
Oct. 2 WASHINGTON STATE
Oct. 9 at California
Oct. 21 at Oregon
Oct. 30 ARIZONA
Nov. 6 OREGON STATE
Nov. 13 at Washington
Nov. 26 at Arizona State
Dec. 4 USC

USC

Sept. 2 at Hawaii
Sept. 11 VIRGINIA
Sept. 18 at Minnesota
Sept. 25 at Washington State
Oct. 2 WASHINGTON
Oct. 9 at Stanford

Oct. 16 CALIFORNIA
Oct. 30 OREGON
Nov. 6 ARIZONA STATE
Nov. 13 at Arizona
Nov. 20 at Oregon State
Nov. 27 NOTRE DAME
Dec. 4 at UCLA

WASHINGTON

Sept. 4 at BYU
Sept. 11 SYRACUSE
Sept. 18 NEBRASKA
Oct. 2 at USC
Oct. 9 ARIZONA STATE
Oct. 16 OREGON STATE
Oct. 23 at Arizona
Oct. 30 STANFORD
Nov. 6 at Oregon
Nov. 13 UCLA
Nov. 27 at California
Dec. 4 at Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE

Sept. 4 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 11 MONTANA STATE
Sept. 18 at SMU
Sept. 25 USC
Oct. 2 at UCLA
Oct. 9 OREGON
Oct. 16 ARIZONA
Oct. 23 at Stanford
Oct. 30 at Arizona State
Nov. 6 CALIFORNIA
Nov. 13 at Oregon State
Dec. 4 WASHINGTON

SEC

ALABAMA

Sept. 4 SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 11 PENN STATE
Sept. 18 at Duke
Sept. 25 at Arkansas
Oct. 2 FLORIDA
Oct. 9 at South Carolina
Oct. 16 OLE MISS
Oct. 23 at Tennessee
Oct. 30 at LSU
Nov. 6 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 13 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Nov. 20 GEORGIA STATE
Nov. 26 AUBURN

ARKANSAS

Sept. 4 TENNESSEE TECH
Sept. 11 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Sept. 18 at Georgia
Sept. 25 ALABAMA
Oct. 9 vs. Texas A&M (Arlington, TX)
Oct. 16 at Auburn
Oct. 23 OLE MISS
Oct. 30 VANDERBILT
Nov. 6 at South Carolina
Nov. 13 UTEP
Nov. 20 at Mississippi State
Nov. 27 LSU

AUBURN

Sept. 4 ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 9 at Mississippi State
Sept. 18 CLEMSON
Sept. 25 SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 2 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Oct. 9 at Kentucky
Oct. 16 ARKANSAS
Oct. 23 LSU
Oct. 30 at Ole Miss
Nov. 6 TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA
Nov. 13 GEORGIA
Nov. 26 at Alabama

FLORIDA

Sept. 4 MIAMI (OH)
Sept. 11 USF
Sept. 18 at Tennessee
Sept. 25 KENTUCKY
Oct. 2 at Alabama
Oct. 9 LSU
Oct. 16 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Oct. 30 vs. Georgia (Jacksonville)
Nov. 6 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 13 SOUTH CAROLINA
Nov. 20 APPALACHIAN STATE
Nov. 27 at Florida State

GEORGIA

Sept. 4 LOUISIANA
Sept. 11 at South Carolina
Sept. 18 ARKANSAS
Sept. 25 at Mississippi State
Oct. 2 at Colorado
Oct. 9 TENNESSEE
Oct. 16 VANDERBILT
Oct. 23 at Kentucky
Oct. 30 vs. Florida (Jacksonville)
Nov. 6 IDAHO STATE
Nov. 13 at Auburn
Nov. 27 GEORGIA TECH

KENTUCKY

Sept. 4 at Louisville
Sept. 11 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Sept. 18 AKRON
Sept. 25 at Florida
Oct. 2 at Ole Miss
Oct. 9 AUBURN
Oct. 16 SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 23 GEORGIA
Oct. 30 at Mississippi State
Nov. 6 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Nov. 13 VANDERBILT
Nov. 27 at Tennessee

LSU

Sept. 4 vs. North Carolina (Atlanta)
Sept. 11 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 18 MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 25 WEST VIRGINIA
Oct. 2 TENNESSEE
Oct. 9 at Florida
Oct. 16 MOORE STATE
Oct. 23 at Auburn
Nov. 6 ALABAMA
Nov. 13 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Nov. 20 OLE MISS
Nov. 27 at Arkansas

OLE MISS

Sept. 4 JACKSONVILLE STATE
Sept. 11 at Tulane
Sept. 18 VANDERBILT
Sept. 25 FRESNO STATE
Oct. 2 KENTUCKY
Oct. 16 at Alabama
Oct. 23 at Arkansas
Oct. 30 AUBURN
Nov. 6 LOUISIANA
Nov. 13 at Tennessee
Nov. 20 at LSU
Nov. 27 MISSISSIPPI STATE

MISSISSIPPI STATE

Sept. 4 MEMPHIS
Sept. 9 AUBURN
Sept. 18 at LSU
Sept. 25 GEORGIA
Oct. 2 ALCORN STATE
Oct. 9 at Houston
Oct. 16 at Florida
Oct. 23 UAB
Oct. 30 KENTUCKY
Nov. 13 at Alabama
Nov. 20 ARKANSAS
Nov. 27 at Ole Miss

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sept. 2 SOUTHERN MISS
Sept. 11 GEORGIA
Sept. 18 FURMAN
Sept. 25 at Auburn
Oct. 9 ALABAMA
Oct. 16 at Kentucky
Oct. 23 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 30 TENNESSEE
Nov. 6 ARKANSAS
Nov. 13 at Florida
Nov. 20 TROY
Nov. 27 at Clemson

TENNESSEE

Sept. 4 TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Sept. 11 OREGON
Sept. 18 FLORIDA
Sept. 25 UAB
Oct. 2 at LSU
Oct. 9 at Georgia
Oct. 23 ALABAMA
Oct. 30 at South Carolina
Nov. 6 at Memphis
Nov. 13 OLE MISS
Nov. 20 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 27 KENTUCKY

VANDERBILT

Sept. 4 NORTHWESTERN
Sept. 11 LSU
Sept. 18 at Ole Miss
Oct. 2 at Connecticut
Oct. 9 EASTERN MICHIGAN
Oct. 16 at Georgia
Oct. 23 SOUTH CAROLINA
Oct. 30 at Arkansas
Nov. 6 FLORIDA
Nov. 13 at Kentucky
Nov. 20 TENNESSEE
Nov. 27 WAKE FOREST

SUN BELT

ARKANSAS STATE

Sept. 4 at Auburn
Sept. 11 at Louisiana
Sept. 18 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Sept. 25 at Troy

Wrangler

Oct. 2 LOUISVILLE
Oct. 9 at North Texas
Oct. 16 at Indiana
Oct. 23 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 2 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 13 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Nov. 20 at Navy
Nov. 27 at Florida International

FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Sept. 4 at UAB
Sept. 11 vs. Michigan State (Detroit)
Sept. 25 NORTH TEXAS
Oct. 2 at South Florida
Oct. 9 at Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 23 at Arkansas State
Oct. 30 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Nov. 6 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 13 LOUISIANA
Nov. 20 at Texas
Nov. 27 at Middle Tennessee State
Dec. 4 TROY

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

Sept. 11 RUTGERS
Sept. 18 at Texas A&M
Sept. 25 at Maryland
Oct. 2 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 9 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 16 at North Texas
Oct. 30 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 6 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Nov. 13 at Troy
Nov. 20 at Louisiana
Nov. 27 ARKANSAS STATE
Dec. 4 MIDDLE TENNESSEE

LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE

Sept. 4 at Georgia
Sept. 11 ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 25 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Oct. 2 at North Texas
Oct. 9 OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 16 at Troy
Oct. 23 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 30 at Ohio
Nov. 6 at Mississippi
Nov. 13 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 20 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Nov. 27 at Louisiana-Monroe

LOUISIANA MONROE

Sept. 11 ARKANSAS
Sept. 18 at Arkansas State
Sept. 25 SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Oct. 2 at Auburn
Oct. 9 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Oct. 16 at Western Kentucky
Oct. 23 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 30 TROY
Nov. 6 at Florida International
Nov. 13 at LSU
Nov. 20 NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 27 LOUISIANA

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE

Sept. 2 MINNESOTA
Sept. 11 AUSTIN PEAY
Sept. 18 at Memphis
Sept. 25 at Louisiana
Oct. 5 TROY
Oct. 16 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 23 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Nov. 2 at Arkansas State
Nov. 13 NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 20 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 27 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Dec. 4 at Florida International

NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 4 at Clemson
Sept. 11 RICE
Sept. 18 at Army
Sept. 25 at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 2 LOUISIANA

Oct. 9 ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 16 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Oct. 30 at Western Kentucky
Nov. 6 TROY
Nov. 13 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 20 at Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 27 KANSAS STATE

TROY

Sept. 4 BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 11 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 18 at UAB
Sept. 25 ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 5 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 16 LOUISIANA
Oct. 30 at Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 6 at North Texas
Nov. 13 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Nov. 20 at South Carolina
Nov. 27 WESTERN KENTUCKY
Dec. 4 at Florida Atlantic

WESTERN KENTUCKY

Sept. 4 at Nebraska
Sept. 11 at Kentucky
Sept. 18 INDIANA
Sept. 25 at South Florida
Oct. 9 at Florida International
Oct. 16 LOUISIANA-MONROE
Oct. 23 at Louisiana
Oct. 30 NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 6 FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 13 at Arkansas State
Nov. 20 MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 27 at Troy

WJAC

BOISE STATE

Sept. 6 vs. Virginia Tech (Landover, MD)
Sept. 11 at Wyoming
Sept. 25 OREGON STATE
Oct. 2 at New Mexico State
Oct. 9 TOLEDO
Oct. 16 at San Jose State
Oct. 26 LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 6 HAWAII
Nov. 12 at Idaho
Nov. 19 FRESNO STATE
Nov. 26 at Nevada
Dec. 4 UTAH STATE

FRESNO STATE

Sept. 4 CINCINNATI
Sept. 11 at Utah State
Sept. 25 at Ole Miss
Oct. 2 CAL POLY
Oct. 9 HAWAII
Oct. 16 NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 23 at San Jose State
Nov. 6 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 13 NEVADA
Nov. 19 at Boise State
Nov. 27 IDAHO
Dec. 3 ILLINOIS

HAWAII

Sept. 2 USC
Sept. 11 at Army
Sept. 18 at Colorado
Sept. 25 CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Oct. 2 LOUISIANA TECH
Oct. 9 at Fresno State
Oct. 16 NEVADA
Oct. 23 at Utah State
Oct. 30 IDAHO
Nov. 6 at Boise State
Nov. 20 SAN JOSE STATE
Nov. 27 at New Mexico State
Dec. 4 UNLV

IDAHO

Sept. 2 NORTH DAKOTA

Sept. 11 at Nebraska
Sept. 18 UNLV
Sept. 25 at Colorado State
Oct. 2 at Western Michigan
Oct. 16 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 23 NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 30 at Hawaii
Nov. 6 NEVADA
Nov. 12 BOISE STATE
Nov. 20 at Utah State
Nov. 27 at Fresno State
Dec. 4 SAN JOSE STATE

LOUISIANA TECH

Sept. 4 vs. Grambling St. (Shreveport, LA)
Sept. 11 at Texas A&M
Sept. 18 NAVY
Sept. 25 SOUTHERN MISS
Oct. 2 at Hawaii
Oct. 9 UTAH STATE
Oct. 16 IDAHO
Oct. 26 at Boise State
Nov. 6 FRESNO STATE
Nov. 13 at New Mexico State
Nov. 27 at San Jose State
Dec. 4 NEVADA

NEVADA

Sept. 2 EASTERN WASHINGTON
Sept. 11 COLORADO STATE
Sept. 17 CALIFORNIA
Sept. 25 at BYU
Oct. 2 at UNLV
Oct. 9 SAN JOSE STATE
Oct. 16 at Hawaii
Oct. 30 UTAH STATE
Nov. 6 at Idaho
Nov. 13 at Fresno State
Nov. 20 NEW MEXICO STATE
Nov. 26 BOISE STATE
Dec. 4 at Louisiana Tech

NEW MEXICO STATE

Sept. 11 SAN DIEGO STATE
Sept. 18 at UTEP
Sept. 25 at Kansas
Oct. 2 BOISE STATE
Oct. 9 NEW MEXICO
Oct. 16 at Fresno State
Oct. 23 at Idaho
Oct. 30 SAN JOSE STATE
Nov. 6 at Utah State
Nov. 13 LOUISIANA TECH
Nov. 20 at Nevada
Nov. 27 HAWAII

SAN JOSE STATE

Sept. 4 at Alabama
Sept. 11 at Wisconsin
Sept. 18 SOUTHERN UTAH
Sept. 25 at Utah
Oct. 2 UC DAVIS
Oct. 9 at Nevada
Oct. 16 BOISE STATE
Oct. 23 FRESNO STATE
Oct. 30 at New Mexico State
Nov. 13 UTAH STATE
Nov. 20 at Hawaii
Nov. 27 LOUISIANA TECH
Dec. 4 at Idaho

UTAH STATE

Sept. 4 at Oklahoma
Sept. 11 IDAHO STATE
Sept. 18 FRESNO STATE
Sept. 25 at San Diego State
Oct. 1 BYU
Oct. 9 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 23 HAWAII
Oct. 30 at Nevada
Nov. 6 NEW MEXICO STATE
Nov. 13 at San Jose State
Nov. 20 IDAHO
Dec. 4 at Boise State

KEEPING THE Faith

BY LYN SCARBROUGH

JUSTIN JOHN – A LEGACY OF FAITH & DETERMINATION

Justin John's leg had been giving him trouble.

"He had pain after workouts," recalled Stephen John, a sports ticket marketer whose 17-year old son was looking forward to his high school senior basketball season. "We thought it was growing pains, so we bought a knee brace."

Justin, an all-state baseball player, was also a mentor on Wednesday evenings at Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga. On a September night in 2005, a simple collision there changed everything for the John family.

"A sixth grade kid ran into Justin's knee," Stephen said. "The pain was so bad, Justin cried. He said, 'I tore my knee.' The next day he had X-rays and they showed a spot. Two days later, we saw an orthopedic surgeon."

Results were much worse than growing pains or a torn knee.

It was osteosarcoma — a malignant bone tumor, which occurs most often in young people. About 400 children in the United States are affected each year, with more than half knee-related.

Treatment started quickly. First, 12 rounds of chemotherapy shrunk the tumor. Then, during the Christmas holiday season, surgery removed it.

"The doctors thought they got it all, but they wanted to do more," explained Jane John, mother of Justin and his two siblings, Andrew and Megan. "They got the tumor itself, but it was not totally dead. So, they ordered 18 more rounds of chemo."

People who knew Justin were not surprised at his reaction.

"His attitude was top notch," Stephen said. "For the first nine months, he was on crutches. They wanted him to use a wheelchair, but he wouldn't do it."

A year passed and tests were cancer free. Doctors were able to take out the port that had carried Justin's chemo medicine.

"We thought we beat it," Jane remembered.

But, a month later, the cancer was found in both of his lungs. The next two years saw seven surgeries, more chemotherapy, and meetings with specialists.

Dr. Thomas Olson, an oncologist at AFLAC Cancer Center at Egleston Hospital in Atlanta was one of Justin's primary physicians. He received a call from Fox 5 Television.

"They wanted to follow somebody through the cancer experience," Jane said. "Dr. Olson told them, 'I have the perfect person, Justin John.' The series was titled, 'Justin's Journey.'"

"Little children would see Justin and say, 'I know you. I saw you on TV.'"

One incident sticks out to Stephen and Jane.

"A cameraman was upset that Justin quoted Scripture during the segment and said that his disease happened for a reason," Stephen recalled. "He told Justin, 'You have cancer. Give one good reason for that.' Justin gave a quick answer — 'I can get on national television and tell about my faith. You can't go wrong by trusting God.'"

In addition to God and family, Justin had several other passions. Two of the biggest were sports and his beloved Georgia Bulldogs.

"Justin started playing tee-ball at 5-years old," Stephen said. "The first thing that he said after 'Momma' and 'Daddy' was 'Go Dawgs!'"

As he grew older, he became an avid Georgia fan, decorating his room to look like Bulldog headquarters.

Georgia head football coach Mark Richt found out about Justin's cancer during early treatment and sent personal letters.

"I just want you to try to stay focused on the end result," Richt said in one of the letters. "Just remember that going through this will only make you a stronger and a more mature man, but you will need to rely on the Lord, your family and your friends to help you through it."

Despite the pain and the disappointments, there could not have been a better role model than Justin. But, late in 2009, doctors gave bad news to the John family. There was nothing else that could be done medically. Justin's fight couldn't last much longer.

Christian friends from Hebron Baptist were there.

"They were there 24 hours a day," Jane said. "They brought meals every day for three months. Close friends, pastors could call any time. Justin would wake up during the night in pain and ask us to call close friends right then for prayer."

Two Georgia football players provided special support. Junior linebacker Rennie Curran visited Justin at home before the Independence Bowl game with Texas A&M.

"Meeting Justin was a great experience," Curran said. "He was so positive and told me how much he loved the Bulldogs. We laughed and enjoyed the time together."

Justin gave Curran one of his "PUSH" bracelets, standing for "Pray Until Something Happens." Curran wore the bracelet during the game, but made another promise.

"I told him that when I made my first big play, I would give a sign on television to let him know that I was thinking about him," he said. "On about the third play, their wide receiver caught a short pass and I blasted him and threw up the sign."

The John family was watching, saw Curran wearing the bracelet and saw the sign.

"The family told me they saw it and were in tears," Curran said. "I've kept wearing the bracelet every day since the game."

Another Bulldog, former quarterback David Greene, visited in early January.

"The thing that amazed me most was how strong and spirited he seemed to be," he recalled. "I expected to see a frail and exhausted kid, but during two hours there, I almost forgot that he was sick."

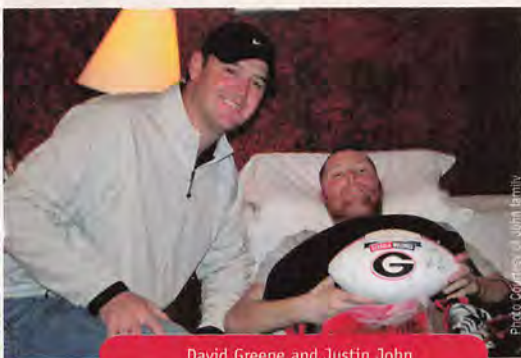
"A kid this young and full of life taken over by cancer is hard to accept. It's important to lean on scriptures like Proverbs 3:5-6."

Justin John died on February 19, 2010, a little over three weeks after his 22nd birthday. The funeral drew over 3,500 people to visitation that lasted from 6 p.m. until midnight.

"At the service, a young man came up to me crying," Stephen said. "He asked if I was Justin's father. He told me that he had become a Christian due to Justin's example and that he was being baptized the next Sunday."

That would have brought joy to Justin, who had chosen those verses in Proverbs as his watchword:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."



David Greene and Justin John

NATIONAL RECRUITING

By Mike Farrell



1 Southern California

QB- 1, RB- 3, WR- 2, TE- 3, OL- 2, DT- 1, LB- 1, DB- 3, ATH- 3

Lane Kiffin has assembled a staff that can flat-out recruit. Though he had just a few weeks to woo recruits to Los Angeles and hold together the class that Pete Carroll had assembled, Kiffin did an excellent job.

USC signed pro-style quarterback **Jesse Scroggins**. The 6-3, 195-pound prospect from Lakewood, Calif., does everything pretty well. However, it is Scroggins' agility and athleticism that sets him apart. **Kyle Prater** is Rivals.com's top-ranked wide receiver in the country for 2010, and he's heading to USC. He'll be joined on the outside by fellow five-star recruit **Markeith Ambles** of Georgia. **Xavier Grimble**, **Randall Telfer** and **Christian Thomas** will solidify the tight end position. The Trojans picked up three more five-star prospects in this class. Running back **Dillon Baxter** has tremendous elusiveness and can catch the ball very well. Offensive tackle **Seantrel Henderson** was ranked as the No. 2 overall prospect in the nation. Athlete **Robert Woods** is electrifying and it will be hard for the coaches to keep him off the field.

Dion Bailey, **Nickell Robey** and **Demetrius Wright** are all four-star defensive backs who will push for playing time early in their college careers. Wright and Bailey have the kind of size that coaches love in the secondary. At 6-4, 300 pounds, **George Uko** is a massive presence at defensive tackle and is one of the gems of this class.



2 Florida

QB- 2, RB- 1, WR- 4, TE- 2, OL- 2, DE- 3, DT- 3, LB- 3, DB- 5, ATH- 3

Though the Trojans' class is ranked No. 1 in the nation by Rivals.com, many will make the case that Florida should have the top spot. Florida's haul is bigger, as 28 prospects signed on the dotted line in February. The Gators reached outside of the Sunshine State for a surprising number of prospects.

Solomon Patton is a 5-10, 175-pound receiver from Mobile, Ala. He was one of the Gulf Coast's top prospects. **Adrian Coxson** was one of the top recruits in Maryland. The other two receivers — **Quinton Dunbar** and **Chris Dunkley** — are Floridians. West Palm Beach tight end **Gerald Christian** is the No. 2 prospect at his position nationally according to Rivals.com. The Gators didn't have to look outside the state to find some offensive line talent. **Chaz Green** of Tampa Catholic, at 6-6, 290 pounds, has some of the best footwork you'll ever find among prospects that size.

Florida signed the top two defensive tackles in the nation in **Sharif Floyd** of Philadelphia and **Dominique Easley** of Staten Island, New York. One recruit in this class stands out above all the rest. Defensive end **Ronald Powell** was the No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2010, and it was absolutely huge for the Gators to lure him in from the West Coast. The 6-4, 230-pound prospect runs like a skill position player and has unbelievable athletic ability. The Gators did just fine replenishing the secondary as well. **Matt Elam** is the headliner among defensive backs, but **Joshua Shaw**, **Jaylen Watkins**, **Cody Riggs** and **Jordan Haden** all have NFL potential.



3 Texas

QB- 2, RB- 1, WR- 5, OL- 2, DE- 3, DT- 3, LB- 3, DB- 3, ATH- 2, K- 1

The Longhorns' Class of 2010 is similar to their recent classes in many ways, and that's a good thing. There's quality depth at a variety of positions. The talent is especially strong at wide receiver and on defense.

Connor Wood is a 6-4, 209-pound QB who runs well. He was ranked as the No. 3 pro-style quarterback in the country by Rivals.com. All five of the Longhorns' wide receiver recruits are rated four-star by Rivals.com. The headliners are **Mike Davis** of Dallas and **Darius White** of Fort Worth. Both committed to Texas relatively late in the recruiting process. Davis had been committed to LSU. Four-star standout **Traylon Sheed** is the kind of running back that could carry a big load later in his career. Though the Longhorns did not add a lot of help along the line, **Trey Hopkins** and **Dominic Espinosa** are excellent prospects.

The defensive tackles aren't quite as highly touted as Florida's, but **Taylor Bible** and **Ashton Dorsey** are potentially elite college players. Both have good size, but it's their athleticism that makes them intriguing prospects. Defensive end **Jackson Jeffcoat** is the top prospect in the entire class for Texas, and he was the No. 12 overall prospect in the country. He's joined on the outside by

four-star end **Reggie Wilson**, who has great speed for someone that carries 240 pounds. The Longhorns reached all the way into Ohio to pick up five-star linebacker **Jordan Hicks**, the top outside linebacker in the nation. Athlete **DeMarco Cobbs** was one of the best seniors in Oklahoma last year.



4 Auburn

QB- 1, RB- 2, WR- 2, TE- 2, OL- 6, DE- 4, DT- 2, LB- 4, DB- 2, ATH- 5, K- 2

Auburn signed 32 prospects in this class, and almost all of them come from states that make up SEC country.

Five-star junior college quarterback **Cameron Newton** has been named the starter after taking part in spring drills. At 6-6, 247 pounds, Newton is a physical specimen — especially when you consider his ability to run with the ball. He's a load to bring down, and he is the definition of a dual-threat quarterback. Newton should be handing the ball off to **Michael Dyer** of Little Rock. Dyer, a five-star prospect and the No. 2 running back in the class of 2010, is only 5-8. However, Dyer has a sturdy build and is very difficult to bring down. **Jeremy Richardson** and **Antonio Goodwin** are a pair of receivers that should contribute early. Offensive tackle **Shon Coleman** hails from Mississippi and is a five-star prospect. However, Coleman was diagnosed with leukemia in early 2010 and has undergone chemotherapy treatments. At this point, Coleman's football future is uncertain.

Defensive tackles **Kenneth Carter** and **Jeffrey Whitaker** should contribute early in their college careers, while in-state defensive end **Craig Sanders** could develop into a big-time pass rusher. While he isn't rated quite as highly as Newton, Dyer or Coleman, don't be surprised if defensive end **Corey Lemonier** of Hialeah, Fla., ends up as the best NFL prospect in this class. Junior college defensive end **Joel Bonomolo** out of California could have an immediate impact for the Tigers. Many LSU fans were upset when **Trovon Reed**, the top prospect in Louisiana, chose Auburn a few months before Signing Day.



5 Alabama

QB- 1, RB- 2, WR- 3, TE- 2, OL- 3, DE- 3, DT- 2, LB- 1, DB- 6, ATH- 1, K- 2

The Tide put together a balanced class, with a special emphasis on the secondary. Six defensive backs from the class of 2010 signed with Alabama. **DeMarcus Milliner** was Rivals.com's No. 2 cornerback, and at 6-2 he has the size to match up with some of the bigger receivers in the SEC. Mississippi junior college prospect **Dequan Menzie** is another defensive back but injury will force him to miss a year. **Jarrick Williams** is a pure safety prospect with size and was a member of the Rivals 100.

Alfy Hill is the type of player Alabama always seems to recruit. At 6-4, 222 pounds, Hill has plenty of speed off the edge. Fellow defensive end **Adrian Hubbard** of Georgia has tremendous height at 6-7, but he will need to spend some time in the weight room. Linebacker **C.J. Mosley** has an impressive combination of speed and strength.

The No. 2 pro-style quarterback in the nation is heading to Tuscaloosa. **Phillip Sims**, a 6-2, 208-pound prospect from Virginia, can buy time with his legs, but it's his throwing ability that impressed coaches. **Jalston Fowler** is a load at 240 pounds and was ranked as the No. 3 fullback in the nation. **Corey Grant** is a four-star all-purpose back and has great versatility. **DeAndrew White** is the No. 7 receiver in the class according to Rivals.com. **Keiwone Malone** should compete for time at receiver down the road as well. The Tide scored big with 6-6, 314-pound Maryland tackle **Arie Kouandjio** from DeMatha.



6 LSU

QB- 1, RB- 3, WR- 3, TE- 4, OL- 2, DE- 4, LB- 2, DB- 2, ATH- 5, K- 1

LSU signed quality four-star wide receivers **Kadron Boone** and **James Wright**. It's a testament to the strength of the SEC right now that this LSU class is ranked fourth in the conference and third in its division.

LSU lured **Jarrett Fobbs** away from Texas A&M at the end of the recruiting process, and he's another talented playmaker. **Ronnie Vinson** and **Tharold Simon** are two more four-star athletes that should make big contributions down the road. The most intriguing athlete in this class is **Spencer Ware** of Ohio. At 5-11, 220, Ware doesn't have blazing speed. But Ware is an outstanding athlete for someone his size. A high school quarterback, Ware could play any

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number of positions in college and will get his first look as running back.

J.R. Ferguson, a 6-3, 272-pound defensive end, was a huge late addition from Hargrave Military Academy. He's a very strong player and should help against the run early in his career. Fellow four-star defensive ends **Jordan Allen** and **J.C. Copeland** should provide excellent depth at the position. At 6-4, 215 pounds, Tennessean **Justin Maclin** is listed as a defensive end, but could play linebacker.



7

Oklahoma

QB- 1, RB- 2, WR- 2, TE- 2, OL- 5, DE- 2, DT- 4, LB- 3, DB- 4, ATH- 4

This class has depth across the board, and there really are no weaknesses that were not addressed. Two of the most heralded incoming freshmen for OU are from Kansas. Wichita quarterback **Blake Bell** has a great shot to be Bob Stoops' starting quarterback at some point down the road. At 6-6, Bell has tremendous size — which will help him immensely. Athlete **Justin McCray**, also from Kansas, is a big-time prospect.

Four-star wide receiver **Kenny Stills** has good speed and was one of the top skill position prospects in California's class of 2010. Tight ends **Austin Haywood** of Oklahoma and **Trey Millard** of Missouri are each 245 pounds, so they have good size already. OU added plenty of explosiveness in a pair of all-purpose backs — **Brennan Clay** of California and **Roy Finch** of Florida. Both are also excellent pass catchers, which should give the Sooners' offense a lot of options in the coming years. **Tyrus Thompson**, **Daryl Williams** and **Austin Woods** — all from Texas — are four-star offensive line prospects. **Bronson Irwin**, another four-star lineman and a prospect from Oklahoma, is bigger than all of them at 322 pounds.

At defensive end the headliner is **Geneo Grissom**, a 6-4, 230-pound pass rushing threat. The top defensive tackle in the class is **Eric Humphrey** of Dallas. **Daniel Noble** and **Torrea Peterson**, both defensive tackles, are around 300 pounds. Californian **Tony Jefferson** is ranked as the No. 4 safety in the country by Rivals.com. Four-star safety **James Haynes** from Texas is a burner, having been clocked at better than 4.4 seconds in the 40-yard dash.



8

UCLA

RB- 1, WR- 1, TE- 1, OL- 3, DE- 2, DT- 3, LB- 4, DB- 3, ATH- 3, K- 1

The Bruins signed 23 prospects in this class and the vast majority of the talent is on the defensive side of the ball. The most highly touted prospect in the Bruins' class is Oregon defensive end **Owamagbe Odighizuwa**. At 6-3, 234 pounds, Odighizuwa is ranked as the No. 8 overall prospect in the nation. Defensive tackle **Cassius Marsh** will probably be lining up next to Odighizuwa. Virginia linebacker **Aramide Olaniyan** was committed to Duke at one point, but finally settled on UCLA. He's part of an outstanding incoming linebacker group that includes fellow four-star prospects **Josh Shirley** and **Jordan Zumwalt**.

Athlete **Anthony Barr** has an incredible natural feel for the game and has NFL-potential written all over him. At 6-1, 210 pounds, athlete **Malcolm Jones** could play a variety of positions. He has the makings of a running back that has the total package. Athlete **Anthony Johnson** could end up at cornerback and has the size to go up against some of the Pac 10's physically imposing wide receivers. Keep an eye on **Jordon James**, ranked as the No. 8 running back in the nation by Rivals.com. Safety **Dietrich Riley** is one of the better tacklers you'll see among incoming freshmen defensive backs.



9

Tennessee

QB- 3, RB- 1, WR- 4, TE- 1, OL- 4, DE- 3, DT- 1, LB- 2, DB- 3, ATH- 2, K- 1

When Tennessee settled on Derek Dooley, the new coach made his case to recruits — both committed and uncommitted. The consensus is that Dooley did a solid job under difficult circumstances. He did a great job of selling himself and his ideas to recruits and managed to keep together the foundations of a top-10 class.

The top recruit in Tennessee's class is five-star wide receiver **Da'Rick Rogers**. It appeared as though Rogers was going to play for his home-state Georgia Bulldogs, but the Vols managed to reel him in at the eleventh hour. Rogers is the No. 2 wide receiver prospect in the nation and the No. 9 overall prospect in the country according to Rivals.com. Fellow receiver **Justin Hunter** of Virginia was

committed to LSU but switched to the Vols at the end of the process. **Ted Meline** has nice speed, and at 6-6 **Matt Milton** is an excellent target on the outside, as well. **Jawaun James** is an offensive lineman with a lot of potential.

Tennessee signed **Jacques Smith**, the top recruit in the state and the No. 6 defensive end in the country. The 6-3, 225-pound Smith will pose serious problems for slow-footed offensive tackles. There was a lot of uncertainty regarding **Corey Miller** and where the South Carolina defensive end might end up, but the Vols managed to keep him in the fold. Texas safety **Eddrick Lofton** and junior college cornerback **Dave Clark** are both four-star prospects and could compete for time immediately.



10

Florida State

QB- 1, RB- 1, WR- 2, TE- 2, OL- 1, DE- 1, DT- 4, LB- 5, DB- 4, ATH- 3

The 24 incoming freshmen at Florida State are Jimbo Fisher's first haul, and he did well for himself. There isn't a lot in the way of offensive skill position talent in the Seminoles' 2010 class. There are a pair of impressive wide receiver prospects in **Kenny Shaw** and **De'Joshua Johnson**. Shaw, of Orlando, is ranked as the No. 14 receiver in the country. Johnson is even smaller in stature than Shaw at just 5-11 and about 150 pounds. Athlete **Christian Green** is one of the top recruits for the Seminoles. He's a tremendous athlete but has to feel his way out as a receiver.

FSU signed four three-star prospects up the middle, and three of them weigh at least 285 pounds. **Darius Cummings** is a bit of a 'tweener, but his athleticism makes him an intriguing prospect. He was one of the top defensive ends in the Southeast. **Christian Jones** and **Jeff Luc** are as good a 1-2 punch at linebacker as there is in the country, but the top overall recruit in Florida State's recruiting class is cornerback **Lamaricus Joyner**. At 5-8, 166 pounds, Joyner isn't a physically imposing prospect. However, he plays with incredible toughness for someone his size. Junior college cornerback **Mike Harris** has better size than Joyner and could make an early contribution.



11

California

QB- 1, RB- 1, WR- 4, TE- 1, OL- 3, DE- 2, LB- 4, DB- 3

A trio of recruits from North Carolina committed to Cal late, giving the class a tremendous boost. The headliner of the class is five-star safety **Keenan Allen**, the top prospect at his position in the nation and the No. 5 overall prospect in his class. Allen will likely play wide receiver in college. Four-star defensive end **Gabe King** moved from North Carolina to Oregon during his senior year and committed to Cal late as well. The 6-6, 253-pound lineman passes the eyeball test as well as anyone. The third North Carolinian to pledge late was four-star linebacker **Chris McCain**.

Linebacker **Nick Forbes** comes to Cal all the way from Maryland. Forbes is a very physical player. California linebackers **Cecil Whiteside** and **David Wilkerson** could both contribute early.

With everything that happened late it's almost easy to forget about Colorado defensive end **Chris Martin**, a five-star prospect that backed out of his commitment to Notre Dame and committed to Cal a couple of months before Signing Day. The 6-4, 240-pound prospect is the No. 2 defensive end in the 2010 class. The best incoming offensive skill position player for the Bears is Los Angeles wide receiver **Tevin Carter**. The 6-3, 190-pound receiver has a long stride and covers a lot of ground.



12

Penn State

QB- 2, RB- 2, WR- 1, TE- 2, OL- 5, DE- 2, DT- 1, LB- 3, ATH- 2

The Nittany Lions scored big in the Class of 2010, putting together the top haul in the Big Ten. Penn State's class is heavy on offense. Penn State managed to sign six of the top 10 in-state prospects. The Lions landed Pennsylvania's best quarterback, **Paul Jones**. The 6-3, 226-pound quarterback puts good velocity on the football. Fellow four-star quarterback **Robert Bolden** has an even stronger arm than Jones.

The two quarterbacks have to be excited about **Silas Redd**, ranked as the No. 4 running back in the nation. Rarely do you talk about fullbacks as impact recruits, but that's exactly what **Zach Zwinak** is. The 6-2, 230-pound bruiser loves contact and won't back down from anyone. Offensive linemen **Miles Dieffenbach** and **Thomas Ricketts** need to put on a little weight, but have all the tools to be

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all-conference players at some point in their careers.

Linebacker **Khairi Fortt** was the No. 2 overall prospect in Connecticut. It's tough to imagine Fortt not getting on the field as a true freshman. In-state linebacker **Mike Hull** isn't quite as physically dominant as Fortt, but he should develop nicely. Four-star defensive end **Dakota Royer** is another talent that needs some weight room work, while **C.J. Olaniyan** is more prepared to contribute.

O 13 Oregon

QB- 1, RB- 3, TE- 2, OL- 4, DE- 2, DT- 1, LB- 1, DB- 7, ATH- 1, K- 1

Nearly half of the 23 prospects in this class are Californians, but the Ducks also reached into Florida, Arizona, Texas and other states to complete their class. The strength of this class is undeniably found in the seven defensive backs and the three running backs. In the offensive backfield, the star is **Lache Seastrunk**, who was the nation's No. 3 running back. Seastrunk is an explosive back and a true home-run threat. Four-star all-purpose back **Josh Huff** is another explosive player. **Dontae Williams** — the nation's No. 12 running back — is a bruiser that can get the tough yards.

Safety **Erick Dargan** isn't a burner, but he has a knack for playing the game and could make an early contribution. Four-star cornerback **Dior Mathis** hails from Detroit. What he lacks in size he makes up for in toughness and aggressiveness. Portland athlete **Keanon Lowe** could end up starring on either side of the ball, and he's an attractive cornerback prospect. He has great quickness and could also be a dangerous special teams player. California quarterback **Bryan Bennett** may be a couple of years away from pushing for time, but when he develops, he should be a great fit in the Ducks' system.

ND 14 Notre Dame

QB- 3, RB- 1, WR- 3, TE- 2, OL- 3, DE- 1, DT- 2, LB- 2, DB- 4, ATH- 2

Georgia wide receiver **Tai-lor Jones** has a knack for making plays and catches the ball very well. Four-star tight end **Alex Welch** is yet another Cincinnati prospect to watch in the coming years. The top running back in the class is **Cameron Roberson** of California. At 6-1, 215, Roberson has the makings of an every-down back. Offensive lineman **Christian Lombard** weighs almost 300 pounds and has room to add more good weight.

A pair of North Carolinians — **Prince Shembo** and **Kendall Moore** — make up a formidable linebacker duo. Defensive tackle **Louis Nix**, 320, of Florida is probably the most impressive prospect on that side of the ball. Nix is a potential star against the run — but needs to develop a move or two to get to the passer.

Offensive lineman **Matt James** (of Cincinnati), who was ranked No. 86 in the Rivals100, would have been a key piece of the puzzle for the Irish. However, James died after falling from a balcony while on spring break. Dealing with this tragedy off the field will be a challenge for the Irish.

G 15 Georgia

QB- 1, RB- 2, WR- 2, OL- 3, DE- 4, DT- 2, LB- 1, DB- 4

Georgia relied heavily on in-state talent yet again, but only managed to sign four of the top 10 prospects in the Peach State. Losing out on the top two receivers in the state — **Da'Rick Rogers** and **Markeith Ambles** — was especially tough because both were five-star prospects.

Georgia cleaned up along the defensive line. Four-star Atlanta DT **Garrison Smith** is one of the best prospects at his position in the country. Fellow Georgia defensive tackle **Mike Thornton** is another four-star prospect. The top overall prospect on the defensive line in Georgia's class, however, is end **T.J. Stripling**. At 6-6, 215, Stripling will need to continue to gain weight, but he has the makings of a devastating pass rusher. Four-star defensive ends **Jalen Fields** and **Dexter Morant** could be candidates to make an early impact.

The Bulldogs signed a pair of elite safeties in **Jakar Hamilton** and **Alec Ogletree**. Hamilton has very good speed and should be a college-ready player. He was ranked as Rivals.com's No. 2 junior college player in the nation last year. Ogletree is bigger at 6-3, 210 pounds, and could develop into an outstanding safety. Running back **Ken Malcome** could develop into a durable player that can take 20 carries or more per game. **Brent Benedict** of Jacksonville, Fla., was one of the top offensive linemen in Florida.

U 16 Miami

QB- 1, RB- 4, WR- 2, TE- 3, OL- 5, DE- 2, DT- 3, LB- 5, DB- 3, ATH- 1

The Hurricanes did especially well recruiting running backs, linemen and linebackers. The late addition of **Latwan Anderson** was huge. Anderson was ranked as the No. 2 athlete in the nation.

Running back **Storm Johnson** has a world of potential. The 6-1, 217-pound back could end up having the biggest impact of anyone in this class. **Eduardo Clements** is more of an elusive speed back from Miami. Clements should provide a nice change of pace to Johnson. **Brandon Linder** and **Malcolm Bunch** headline a quality crew of offensive linemen. Bunch hails from Milford Academy in New York and was the No. 8 prep school prospect in the nation. Linder was one of the few centers that is coming into college with a lot of fanfare.

Jacksonville, Fla., defensive tackle **Tavadis Glenn** and Virginia linebacker **Travis Williams** complement Anderson on defense. Glenn, at 6-5, 265 pounds, has pretty good quickness. Williams is as good as it gets in coverage. However, he's going to have to spend some time in the weight room before he's ready to shed blocks and make the tough tackles at the line.

ATM 17 Texas A&M

QB- 3, RB- 3, WR- 1, OL- 6, DE- 3, DT- 3, LB- 1, DB- 2, ATH- 2

Almost all of the Aggies' work was done in the Lone Star State. The Aggies did have a little success in Louisiana.

Each of A&M's three running back signees was ranked among the top 30 RBs in the country by Rivals.com. **Ben Malena**, **Mister Jones** and **D.J. Jones** all have pretty good builds and appear to be durable, strong backs. **Jameill Showers** and **Matt Joeckel** are both pro-style quarterbacks. **Luke Joeckel** may be the best NFL prospect in this class. At 6-6, 280, he was ranked the No. 5 offensive tackle in the nation by Rivals.com. **Jake Matthews** is rated nearly as high as Joeckel, while **Cedric Ogbuehi** and **Shep Klinke** aren't far behind them.

Jonathan Mathis, a junior college defensive tackle, is a load at 6-3, 292 pounds. He could be one of the early contributors in this class for the Aggies. A&M did well to pull **Ivan Robinson**, another standout tackle, out of Louisiana.

Ole Miss 18 Ole Miss

RB- 3, WR- 2, TE- 1, OL- 4, DE- 2, DT- 2, LB- 2, DB- 5, ATH- 3

Most of the more talented prospects in this class are on defense, though there are plenty of solid offensive players. Ten of the 25 prospects are from Mississippi, while the Rebels hit the state of Florida hard as well.

The offensive star of this class is wide receiver **Vincent Sanders**. The 6-3, 182-pounder has great hands, as well as a natural knack for making plays. Running back **Nicholas Parker** and fullback **Martez Eastland** are physical players who will bolster the Rebels' backfield. On the defensive side of the ball, there's plenty of talent. **Wayne Dorsey** was one of the top junior college players in the nation. The 6-8, 255-pound defensive end is an imposing figure. Fellow defensive end **Carlos Thompson** can be a terror to quarterbacks. At defensive tackle **Carlton Martin** was ranked the No. 6 prospect in Mississippi. Another four-star tackle, **Mike Thomas** of Hargrave Military Academy, could be a factor.

Junior college safety **Damien Jackson** could instantly push for time. The 6-3, 195-pound defensive back runs well and has good overall athletic ability. Junior college athlete **Randall Mackey** is a four-star prospect that the Rebels could plug in at a variety of positions. One of the most intriguing prospects in this class for Ole Miss is 6-6, 230-pound athlete **Delvin Jones**.

Clemson 19 Clemson

RB- 1, WR- 1, TE- 1, OL- 4, DE- 1, DT- 3, LB- 3, DB- 4, ATH- 5

This class of 23 prospects is bursting at the seams with raw ability and versatility. The Tigers didn't sign any of the top five players in their state, but they did sign five of the top 15. Clemson did surprisingly well in Alabama and Georgia.

Wide receiver **Martavis Bryant** is one of the stars of the class. With a 6-4 frame, Bryant will be a matchup problem for plenty of defensive backs. Defensive tackle **Josh Watson** spent a year at Hargrave Military Academy and comes out ranked as the No. 3 prep school prospect in the country. **Tavaris Barnes** is another four-star defensive tackle with plenty of talent, but he will probably require

NATIONAL RECRUITING

a little bit more time in the weight room. Defensive end **Corey Crawford** could be one of the next great defensive ends to wear orange. At linebacker, the top prospect is **Justin Parker**. Keep an eye on a pair of talented cornerbacks that Clemson snagged from Georgia. Atlanta corner **Darius Robinson** and Conyers, Ga., standout **Garry Peters** have similar builds and run very well.

Safety **Desmond Brown** hails from Alabama and was one of the top defensive backs in the deep South. **DeAndre Hopkins** is the No. 12 athlete in the nation. Hopkins intercepted a lot of passes throughout his high school career and could be a great defensive back in college.



20

Michigan

QB- 1, RB- 2, WR- 4, OL- 1, DE- 3, DT- 2, LB- 4, DB- 6, ATH- 3, K- 1

Rich Rodriguez and his staff believe they have continued to upgrade the speed and overall athleticism on the roster, thus providing themselves with personnel more suited to the systems they are trying to operate.

The Class of 2010 was not heavy in elite quarterbacks, but dual-threat passer **Devin Gardner** has about as much potential as anyone. At 6-4, Gardner has good size and is ranked as the top dual-threat in the nation by Rivals.com. **Ricardo Miller** of Ann Arbor and **Jerald Robinson** of Canton, Ohio, are a pair of solid receivers that could help the Wolverines stretch the field.

Pennsylvania defensive end **Ken Wilkins** is an impressive and intriguing prospect. While he has the speed and quickness to get to the quarterback, he also has the strength to develop into a solid run defender. Florida defensive tackle **Richard Ash** chose Michigan a couple of months before Signing Day. Fellow defensive tackle **Terry Talbott** is similar in that regard, though he's not quite as highly ranked as Ash. Michigan found a pair of excellent defensive back prospects in **Cullen Christian** and **Demar Dorsey**. Cullen, a Pittsburgh prospect, isn't the fastest cornerback in his class, but he makes up for it with size and instincts. Florida safety **Demar Dorsey** is a great athlete and turned down offers from the top programs in the Sunshine State to go north.



21

Missouri

QB- 2, RB- 1, WR- 3, TE- 1, OL- 3, DE- 2, DT- 1, LB- 1, DB- 5, ATH- 4

The Tigers were able to secure commitments from three talented in-state prospects, but most of their work was done outside the state. There are plenty of signees that will help ensure that Missouri will have a dynamic offense.

Quarterback **Tyler Gabbert** has the ability to develop into a starter later in his career. He will be pushed right off the bat by fellow four-star quarterback recruit **James Franklin**, who is more of a dual-threat. Franklin was ranked as the No. 4 dual-threat quarterback in the nation by Rivals.com. Those two, as well as the other quarterbacks on the roster, will be excited to find a pair of receivers as talented as **Jimmie Hunt** and **Marcus Lucas** in this class. Hunt was a big-play threat at receiver in the Illinois high school ranks. At 6-5, Lucas is a huge target with exceptional hands. Offensive linemen **Nick Demien**, **Anthony Gatti** and **Mitch Morse** are all talented prospects that give the Tigers some size up front.

Kony Ealy is the top defensive line recruit for Missouri. He's 6-5, 230 pounds and is a prototypical weakside defensive end. Cornerback **Tristen Holt** is the other four-star defensive recruit for the Tigers. At 6-0, 185 pounds, he has good size for a corner, but his speed is a big asset. Athlete **Henry Josey** of Texas could play just about any skill position and was one of the more versatile players in the Lone Star State as a senior.



22

Nebraska

QB- 1, RB- 1, WR- 1, TE- 1, OL- 3, DE- 4, DT- 2, LB- 1, DB- 4, ATH- 3

Nebraska's recruiting class is in the top 25 due largely to the number of quality defensive players that will be coming into the program. Bo Pelini and his staff will continue to employ a recruiting strategy that targets prospects across the country.

For a good while it appeared as though dual-threat quarterback **Brian Barnes** would sign with South Florida. On Signing Day, however, he decided to go with Nebraska. The 6-0, 181-pound multi-dimensional quarterback from Florida was ranked as the No. 7 dual-threat QB in the nation. **Braylon Heard** was Rivals.com's No. 5 running back in the nation, and he's a big-time talent. He isn't a bruiser, but he has good speed and does a good job of finding yards when they don't seem to be there. Texas tight end **Chase Harper** is a physical presence

at 6-5, 251 pounds. Offensive tackle **Jermarcus Hardrick** is another JUCO that should make an impact. The 6-7, 315-pound massive lineman was committed to LSU but switched to the Cornhuskers a couple of months before Signing Day. **Andrew Rodriguez** is another four-star offensive tackle, and he was the top overall prospect in the state of Nebraska last year.

Chase Rome, a four-star defensive tackle from Missouri, is the kind of hardworking, blue-collar prospect that Pelini and his coaching staff will love. JUCO linebacker **Lavonte David** will be welcomed with open arms. Safety **Corey Cooper** has the tools to be a physical player at the line and in coverage.



23

Virginia Tech

QB- 2, WR- 1, TE- 1, OL- 4, DE- 2, DT- 2, LB- 3, DB- 4, ATH- 1

The top three prospects from Virginia signed with SEC schools, but Virginia Tech did manage to sign four of the top 10 players and nine of the top 18 in its state. Virginia has finally received the recognition it deserves as a talent-rich state that produces plenty of high school football talent.

Fork Union defensive tackle **Nick Acree** is a load at 6-6, 297 pounds. Defensive end **Zach McCray**, a Virginian, may be the top prospect in the Hokies' class. He put up huge sack numbers in the high school ranks and is bigger than many weakside defensive ends. He's joined on the edge by **Justin Taylor** of Norwood, N.C. Taylor has similar potential as a pass rusher, but needs to put on some weight and gain some strength. The Hokies' linebackers are all physical, but they may need a year or two before they are ready to crack the depth chart. **Nick Dew** was ranked as the No. 15 safety in the nation by Rivals.com. He runs very well for someone his size (6-2).

Offensive linemen **Laurence Gibson** and **Mark Shuman** hail from Hargrave and Fork Union respectively. Both move well for 6-6 prospects, and both should weigh considerably more than 300 pounds within a couple of years of entering Tech's program. Tight end **Jerome Lewis** moves exceptionally well for a prospect of his size. The two quarterbacks, **Mark Leal** and **Ricardo Young**, can both move around a little bit while their receivers get open downfield.



24

South Carolina

QB- 2, RB- 1, WR- 3, OL- 6, DE- 1, DT- 3, LB- 2, DB- 4, K- 1

The Gamecocks signed two of the top three and four of the top nine prospects in their home state.

Without a doubt, the Gamecocks' biggest recruiting news in the class of 2010 came just before Signing Day when **Marcus Lattimore** committed. The 6-0, 210-pound back was the No. 1 running back in the nation and the No. 10 prospect regardless of position. Lattimore is one of the biggest recruits in South Carolina history. At 5-9, 165 pounds, wide receiver **Ace Sanders** will be a perfect fit in Spurrier's offense lined up in the slot. Offensive lineman **A.J. Cann** is a four-star prospect and the best of the six linemen to sign with the Gamecocks.

Defensive tackle **Kelcy Quarles** was one of the state's top players. At 6-4, 265 pounds, Quarles moves about as well as you could expect an interior lineman to move. Linebacker **Toquavius Gilchrist** will arrive in Columbia via junior college in Kansas. **Victor Hampton** is the No. 6 cornerback in the nation, according to Rivals.com. He has a great knack for intercepting passes.



25

Ohio State

QB- 1, RB- 3, WR- 3, OL- 1, DE- 4, DT- 1, LB- 2, DB- 1, ATH- 2, K- 1

Part of the reason the Buckeyes are this low is because they signed just 19 recruits, a small class by any measure. Surprisingly, the Buckeyes didn't sign any of the top four prospects in the state of Ohio.

Taylor Graham was ranked as the No. 14 pro-style quarterback in the nation by Rivals.com. At 6-4, 211 pounds, he has prototypical size. Indiana running back **Roderick Smith** is one of the best in the country carrying the football. At 6-3, 220 pounds, Smith runs very well. Fullback **Carlos Hyde** will come to Ohio State from Fork Union and will be paving the way for some of the running backs on the roster. He was ranked as the No. 15 prep school prospect in the country. Though he's not especially big, Florida wide receiver **James Louis** has the speed to make big plays. Cincinnati tackle **Andrew Norwell** (6-7, 275) is the only offensive lineman in the class, but he's a good one. Pennsylvania athlete **Corey Brown** has exceptional speed and may be too talented to keep off the field for very long.

100 FOR 2010

INCOMING FRESHMEN

TOP 100 PLAYERS BY POSITION

Rk	Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School	College
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QUARTERBACKS

63.	Jake Heaps	6-2/195	Sammamish (WA) Skyline	BYU
67.	Phillip Sims	6-2/209	Chesapeake (VA) Oscar Smith	Alabama

RUNNING BACKS

10.	Marcus Lattimore	6-0/210	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	South Carolina
11.	Michael Dyer	5-8/201	Little Rock (AR) Little Rock Christian	Auburn
17.	Dillon Baxter	5-11/187	San Diego (CA) Mission Bay	USC
26.	Lache Seastrunk	5-11/192	Temple (TX) Temple	Oregon
44.	Silas Redd	5-10/200	Stamford (CT) King & Low Heywood Thomas	Penn State
53.	Brennan Clay	6-0/190	San Diego (CA) Scripps Ranch	Oklahoma
57.	Braylon Heard	5-11/180	Youngstown (OH) Cardinal Mooney	Nebraska
65.	Roderick Smith	6-3/220	Fort Wayne (IN) Harding	Ohio State
68.	D.J. Morgan	5-11/175	Woodland Hills (CA) Taft	USC
94.	Roy Finch	5-8/170	Niceville (FL) Niceville	Oklahoma

WIDE RECEIVERS

3.	Kyle Prater	6-5/205	Hillside (IL) Proviso West	USC
9.	Da'Rick Rogers	6-3/206	Calhoun (GA) Calhoun	Tennessee
24.	Markeith Ambles	6-2/182	McDonough (GA) Henry County	USC
34.	Mike Davis	6-1/185	Dallas (TX) Skyline	Texas
37.	Ivan McCartney	6-3/180	Miramar (FL) Miramar	West Virginia
41.	Darius White	6-2/205	Fort Worth (TX) Dunbar	Texas
73.	DeAndrew White	6-0/170	Galena Park (TX) North Shore	Alabama
75.	Justin Hunter	6-4/172	Virginia Beach (VA) Ocean Lakes	Tennessee
77.	Chris Dunkley	5-10/164	Pahokee (FL) Pahokee	Florida
84.	Martavis Bryant	6-4/190	Anderson (SC) T. L. Hanna	Clemson
96.	Chris Jones	6-0/172	Daingerfield (TX) Daingerfield	Texas

TIGHT ENDS

51.	Xavier Grimble	6-6/245	Las Vegas (NV) Bishop Gorman	USC
81.	Gerald Christian	6-3/220	West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer	Florida
97.	Curtis White	6-5/240	Eugene (OR) Sheldon	Oregon

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

2.	Seantrel Henderson	6-8/301	Saint Paul (MN) Cretin-Derham Hall	USC
13.	Robert Crisp	6-7/299	Raleigh (NC) Athens Drive	N.C. State
22.	Shon Coleman	6-7/285	Olive Branch (MS) Olive Branch	Auburn
32.	James Hurst	6-5/284	Indianapolis (IN) Plainfield	North Carolina
39.	Luke Joeckel	6-6/280	Arlington (TX) Arlington	Texas A&M
43.	Chaz Green	6-6/290	Tampa (FL) Tampa Catholic	Florida
48.	Jake Matthews	6-5/275	Missouri City (TX) Elkins	Texas A&M
55.	Jawuan James	6-6/293	Suwanee (GA) North Gwinnett	Tennessee
59.	Andrew Norwell	6-7/275	Cincinnati (OH) Anderson	Ohio State
64.	Trey Hopkins	6-4/270	Galena Park (TX) North Shore	Texas
71.	Ian Silberman	6-4/257	Fleming Island (FL) Fleming Island	Florida
72.	Nick Demien	6-6/295	Wentzville (MO) Timberland	Missouri
76.	Brent Benedict	6-4/278	Jacksonville (FL) Bolles	Georgia
82.	Cedric Ogbuehi	6-5/270	Allen (TX) Allen	Texas A&M
86.	Matt James	6-8/290	Cincinnati (OH) St. Xavier	Notre Dame

DEFENSIVE ENDS

1.	Ronald Powell	6-4/230	Moreno Valley (CA) Rancho Verde	Florida
8.	Owamagbe Odighizuwa	6-3/234	Portland (OR) David Douglas	UCLA

12.	Jackson Jeffcoat	6-3/230	Plano (TX) Plano West	Texas
18.	Chris Martin	6-4/240	Aurora (CO) Grandview High School	California
21.	William Gholston	6-7/237	Detroit (MI) Southeastern	Michigan State
29.	Reggie Wilson	6-2/240	Haltom City (TX) Haltom	Texas
30.	Gabe King	6-6/253	Eugene (OR) South Eugene	California
31.	J.R. Ferguson	6-3/272	Chatham (VA) Hargrave Military Academy	LSU
35.	Corey Lemonier	6-5/223	Hialeah (FL) Hialeah	Auburn
45.	T.J. Stripling	6-6/215	Decatur (GA) Southwest Dekalb	Georgia
66.	Corey Miller	6-4/227	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	Tennessee
69.	Brandon Willis	6-3/255	Duncan (SC) Byrnes	North Carolina
70.	Alfy Hill	6-4/222	Shallotte (NC) West Brunswick	Alabama
74.	Bronson Kaufusi	6-6/250	Provo (UT) Timpview	BYU
80.	Jacques Smith	6-3/225	Ooltewah (TN) Ooltewah	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

4.	Sharrif Floyd	6-3/310	Philadelphia (PA) George Washington	Florida
7.	Dominique Easley	6-3/258	Staten Island (NY) Curtis	Florida
27.	George Uko	6-4/300	Chino (CA) Don Lugo	USC
33.	Cassius Marsh	6-3/275	Westlake Village (CA) Oaks Christian	UCLA
54.	Jeffrey Whitaker	6-3/295	Warner Robins (GA) Warner Robins	Auburn
79.	Garrison Smith	6-4/250	Atlanta (GA) Douglass	Georgia
85.	Louis Nix	6-2/320	Jacksonville (FL) Raines	Notre Dame
88.	Ricky Heimuli	6-4/280	Salt Lake City (UT) Brighton	Oregon
91.	Kelcy Quarles	6-4/265	Greenwood (SC) Greenwood	South Carolina
92.	Sione Potoae	6-3/285	Lakewood (WA) Lakes	Washington
95.	Leon Orr	6-4/300	New Port Richey (FL) Gulf	Florida
98.	Taylor Bible	6-3/280	Denton (TX) Guyer	Texas

LINEBACKERS

16.	Jordan Hicks	6-2/220	West Chester (OH) Lakota West	Texas
20.	Christian Jones	6-4/220	Winter Park (FL) Lake Howell	Florida State
36.	Tevin Jackson	6-3/230	Garland (TX) Garland	Texas
38.	Cecil Whiteside	6-3/220	Newport Beach (CA) Newport Harbor	California
42.	Jeff Luc	6-1/230	Port St. Lucie (FL) Treasure Coast	Florida State
49.	Khairi Fortt	6-2/220	Stamford (CT) Stamford	Penn State
56.	C.J. Mosley	6-2/212	Theodore (AL) Theodore	Alabama

DEFENSIVE BACKS

5.	Keenan Allen	6-3/195	Greensboro (NC) Northern Guilford	California
14.	Lamaricus Joyner	5-8/166	Fort Lauderdale (FL) St. Thomas Aquinas	Florida State
23.	DeMarcus Milliner	6-2/180	Millbrook (AL) Stanhope Elmore	Alabama
25.	Matt Elam	6-0/205	West Palm Beach (FL) Dwyer	Florida
28.	Joshua Shaw	6-1/195	Palmdale (CA) Palmdale	Florida
40.	Alec Ogletree	6-3/210	Newnan (GA) Newnan	Georgia
47.	Jaylen Watkins	6-1/172	Cape Coral (FL) Cape Coral	Florida
58.	John Fulton	6-1/180	Manning (SC) Manning	Alabama
60.	Victor Hampton	5-11/170	Darlington (SC) Darlington	South Carolina
62.	Tony Jefferson	6-0/196	Chula Vista (CA) Eastlake	Oklahoma
83.	Jarrick Williams	6-2/205	Eight Mile (AL) Blount	Alabama
89.	Terrence Mitchell	5-10/165	Tampa (FL) Hillsborough	USF
90.	Eric Reid	6-2/210	Geismar (LA) Dutchtown	LSU
93.	Dion Bailey	6-1/195	Lakewood (CA) Lakewood	USC
99.	Cullen Christian	6-0/180	Pittsburgh (PA) Penn Hills	Michigan
100.	Demetrius Wright	6-1/201	Corona (CA) Corona	USC

ATHLETES

6.	Robert Woods	6-1/180	Gardena (CA) Junipero Serra	USC
15.	Latwan Anderson	5-11/185	Cleveland (OH) Glenville Academic Campus	Miami
19.	Spencer Ware	5-11/220	Cincinnati (OH) Princeton	LSU
46.	Trovan Reed	6-0/173	Thibodaux (LA) Thibodaux	Auburn
50.	Anthony Barr	6-4/230	Los Angeles (CA) Loyola	UCLA
52.	Justin McCay	6-3/197	Shawnee (KS) Bishop Miege	Oklahoma
61.	Christian Green	6-2/200	Tampa (FL) Tampa Catholic	Florida State
78.	Marquis Flowers	6-3/210	Goodyear (AZ) Millennium	Arizona
87.	Malcolm Jones	6-1/210	Westlake Village (CA) Oaks Christian	UCLA

100 FOR 2011

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

TOP 100 PLAYERS BY POSITION

Name	Ht./Wt.	Hometown/School
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QUARTERBACKS

Teddy Bridgewater	6-3/185	Miami (Fla.) Northwestern
Jeff Driskel	6-3/225	Oviedo (Fla.) Hagerty
Kiehl Frazier	6-3/212	Springdale (Ark.) Shiloh Christian
Braxton Miller	6-2/185	Huber Heights (Ohio) Wayne
Bubba Starling	6-5/190	Gardner (Kan.) Edgerton
Jamal Turner	6-1/173	Arlington (Texas) Sam Houston
Max Wittek	6-3/200	Santa Ana (Calif.)

RUNNING BACKS

George Atkinson III	6-1/194	Livermore (Calif.) Granada
Mike Bellamy	5-10/175	Punta Gorda (Fla.) Port Charlotte
Brendon Bigelow	5-10/180	Fresno (Calif.) Central East
Mike Blakely	5-9/194	Bradenton (Fla.) Manatee
Quan Bray	5-11/178	Hogansville (Ga.) Callaway
Malcolm Brown	6-0/210	Cibola (Texas) Steele
Isaiah Crowell	5-11/190	Columbus (Ga.) Carver
Aaron Green	5-10/178	San Antonio (Texas) James Madison
Justice Hayes	5-10/185	Grand Blanc (Mich.)
Kenny Hilliard	6-0/218	Patterson (La.)
Savon Huggins	6-0/190	Jersey City (N.J.) St. Peter's Prep
Marlin Lane	6-1/190	Daytona Beach (Fla.) Mainland
Anthony Pierson	5-11/175	St. Louis (Mo.) Gateway
Herschel Sims	5-10/190	Abilene (Texas)
De'Anthony Thomas	5-9/160	Los Angeles (Calif.) Crenshaw
Brandon Williams	6-1/188	Brookshire (Texas) Royal

WIDE RECEIVERS

DeAnthony Arnett	6-0/167	Saginaw (Mich.)
Kelvin Benjamin	6-6/210	Belle Glade (Fla.) Glades Central
Victor Blackwell	6-0/186	Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei
Nickalos Brassell	6-0/175	Batesville (Miss.) South Panola
George Farmer	6-2/192	Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra
Quinta Funderburke	6-4/205	Chesapeake (Va.) Oscar Smith
Jarvis Landry	5-11/178	Lutcher (La.)
Trey Metoyer	6-2/198	Whitehouse (Texas)
Charone Peake	6-3/185	Roebuck (S.C.) Dorman
Tobias Singleton	6-2/175	Madison (Miss.) Madison Central
Danny Woodson, Jr	6-2/200	Mobile (Ala.) LeFlore

TIGHT ENDS

Ben Koyack	6-5/230	Oil City (Pa.) Oil City Senior
A.C. Leonard	6-2/232	Jacksonville (Fla.) Ribault
Nick O'Leary	6-4/215	West Palm Beach (Fla.) Dwyer
Eric MacLain	6-5/245	Fayetteville (N.C.) Jack Britt
Jay Rome	6-6/240	Valdosta (Ga.) Valdosta
Austin Seferian-Jenkins	6-7/250	Gig Harbor (Wash.) Gig Harbor

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Michael Bennett	6-3/275	Centerville (Ohio)
La'El Collins	6-5/285	Baton Rouge (La.) Redemptorist
Brey Cook	6-7/314	Springdale (Ark.) Har-Ber
Sedrick Flowers	6-3/280	Galena Park (Texas) North Shore
Garrett Greenlea	6-7/285	Klein (Texas) Klein Collins

Bobby Hart	6-4/283	Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) St. Thomas Aquinas
Matthew Hegarty	6-5/265	Aztec (N.M.) Aztec
Kiaro Holts	6-5/270	Indianapolis (Ind.) Warren Central
Jarrod James	6-4/276	Pikeville (N.C.) Aycock
Cyrus Kouandjio	6-6/322	Hyattsville (Md.) DeMatha
Tyler Moore	6-6/290	Clearwater (Fla.) Countryside
Antonio Richardson	6-6/310	Nashville (Tenn.) Ensworth
Gregory Robinson	6-4/296	Thibodaux (La.) Thibodaux
Landon Turner	6-4/304	Harrisonburg (Va.)
Aundrey Walker	6-5/355	Cleveland (Ohio) Glenville
Christian Westerman	6-5/288	Chandler (Ariz.) Hamilton
Anthony Zettel	6-4/254	West Branch (Mich.) Ogemaw Heights

DEFENSIVE ENDS

Todd Barr	6-3/265	Lakewood (Calif.)
Jadeveon Clowney	6-5/225	Rock Hill (S.C.) South Pointe
Xzavier Dickson	6-3/238	Griffin (Ga.)
Ray Drew	6-5/243	Thomasville (Ga.) Thomas County Central
LaMichael Fanning	6-6/285	Auburn (Ala.)
Jason Gibson	6-2/212	Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra
Kenny Hayes	6-5/240	Toledo (Ohio) Whitmer
Jeffrey Pagan	6-4/250	Asheville (N.C.)
Jermuaia Rasco	6-3/227	Shreveport (La.) Evangel Christian
Greg Townsend, Jr.	6-4/242	Beverly Hills (Calif.)
Ishaq Williams	6-6/220	Brooklyn (N.Y.) Lincoln

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Marquis Anderson	6-3/260	Cibola (Texas) Steele
Kris Harley	6-2/265	Indianapolis (Ind.) Warren Central
Mustafa Jalil	6-4/300	San Diego (Calif.) Cathedral Catholic
Timmy Jernigan	6-2/275	Lake City (Fla.) Columbia
Anthony Johnson	6-4/298	New Orleans (La.) O. Perry Walker
Kevin McReynolds	6-2/281	Washington (D.C.) St. John's Colle
Viliami Moala	6-2/326	Sacramento (Calif.) Grant
Kevin Williams	6-3/275	Holland (Ohio) Springfield
Gabriel Wright	6-3/273	Columbus (Ga.) Carver

LINEBACKERS

Stephone Anthony	6-3/220	Wadesboro (N.C.) Anson
Brent Calloway	6-1/210	Russellville (Ala.)
Trey DePriest	6-2/231	Springfield (Ohio)
Steve Edmond	6-3/225	Daingerfield (Texas)
Curtis Grant	6-3/222	Richmond (Va.) Hermitage
C.J. Johnson	6-3/227	Philadelphia (Miss.) Philadelphia
Lawrence Thomas	6-4/232	Detroit (Mich.) Renaissance
Lateek Townsend	6-2/197	Bennettsville (S.C.) Marlboro County

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Quincy Aldridge	6-2/195	Whitehouse (Texas)
Erique Florence	6-2/181	Valley (Ala.)
Doran Grant	5-10/171	Akron (Ohio) St. Vincent-St. Mary
Albert Louis-Jean	6-1/172	Brockton (Mass.)
Demetrious Nicholson	5-11/175	Virginia Beach (Va.) Bayside
Josh Turner	6-0/185	Oklahoma City (Okla.)

ATHLETES

Devon Blackmon	6-0/175	Fontana (Calif.) Summit
LaDarius Brown	6-2/175	Waxahachie (Texas)
Hasean Clinton-Dix	6-2/190	Orlando (Fla.) Dr. Phillips
Quandre Diggs	5-10/188	Angleton (Texas)
Melvin Gordon	6-2/180	Kenosha (Wis.) Bradford
Darius Jennings	5-11/165	Baltimore (Md.) Gilman
Colt Lyerla	6-5/552	Hillsboro (Ore.)
Damian Swann	6-0/175	Atlanta (Ga.) Grady
James Wilder, Jr.	6-2/219	Tampa (Fla.) Plant

TOP 10 SCHOOLS BY POSITION

Quarterback

1. Stanford
2. Missouri
2. Penn State
4. Texas
4. West Virginia
6. Houston
7. Pittsburgh
7. Colorado State
9. Notre Dame
10. BYU

Running back

1. USC
2. Oregon
3. Miami
4. Texas A&M
5. Washington
6. Oklahoma
6. Penn State
8. Alabama
9. LSU
10. South Carolina

Wide Receiver

1. Texas
2. Tennessee
3. USC
4. Florida
5. West Virginia
6. Utah
7. Alabama
8. Missouri
8. LSU
8. Pittsburgh

Tight End

1. USC
2. LSU
3. Oklahoma
4. Florida
5. Oregon
6. Alabama
7. North Carolina

8. Auburn
9. Penn State
10. Iowa

Offensive Line

1. Auburn
2. Texas A&M
3. Oklahoma
4. North Carolina State
5. Penn State
6. North Carolina
7. Miami
8. South Carolina
9. Virginia Tech
10. USC

Defensive Line

1. Florida
2. UCLA
3. Oregon State
3. Arkansas
5. Oklahoma
6. Mississippi
7. Auburn
8. Clemson
9. Texas
10. Texas A&M

Defensive End

1. Texas
2. LSU
3. Florida
4. Georgia
5. Auburn
6. California
7. Tennessee
8. Michigan State
9. Stanford
10. UCLA

Linebacker

1. Florida State
2. California
3. Texas

4. UCLA
5. Oklahoma State
6. Auburn
7. Michigan
8. Penn State
9. West Virginia
10. Florida

Defensive Back

1. Alabama
2. Florida
3. Florida State
4. Oregon
5. Baylor
6. Georgia
7. Oklahoma
8. Georgia Tech
9. Clemson
10. California

Athlete

1. LSU
2. USC
3. UCLA
4. Auburn
5. Florida
5. Mississippi
7. Oklahoma
8. Clemson
8. Miami
8. TCU

Kicker

1. UCLA
2. Tennessee
2. Michigan
2. Fresno State
2. LSU
6. Auburn
6. Alabama
8. Michigan State
8. Texas
8. Oregon State

SEC RECRUITING

By Barton Simmons
Rivals.com



Florida

Overview: Florida's 2010 class features as good a defensive line class as you can imagine. The Gators signed three five-star defensive linemen (**Ronald Powell**, **Shariff Floyd** and **Dominique Easley**) and another highly regarded four-star in **Leon Orr**. **Matt Elam**, a versatile safety/linebacker, adds to the five-star tally as one of the top prospects in Florida. Though Florida only signed two offensive linemen, **Ian Silberman** and **Chaz Green** are two of the best in the nation. The rich are also getting richer in the speed category with players like **Jonathan Dowling**, **Jaylen Watkins**, **Jordan Haden**, **Mack Brown** and **Chris Dunkley** all heading to Florida.

Headliner: Powell is the most unique athlete in the 2010 class because of his ability to play a number of positions. Due to his size and athleticism, expect Powell to make a big impact early coming off the edge as a pass rusher.

Sleeper: With so much talent at his disposal in the Southeast, if Urban Meyer goes to Connecticut for a prospect, you know the player must be special. That is the case with **Tyler Murphy**, a two-star quarterback with a limited offer list.

Bottom Line: This is not just one of Urban Meyer's best recruiting classes, this is one of the top recruiting classes by any school in recent memory. The group is led by four program-changing five-star prospects.



Auburn

Overview: Auburn became one of the surprise programs on the recruiting trail in 2010, landing the No. 4 class in the country. **Michael Dyer** was the nation's No. 2 running back prospect and the top player in Arkansas. **Shon Coleman** was a five-star offensive tackle and the top prospect in Mississippi. **Trovon Reed** was the top player in the state of Louisiana. The talent doesn't stop there. **Kenneth Carter**, **Jawara White**, **Corey Lemonier** and **Jeffrey Whitaker** are among more elite prospects heading to Auburn.

Headliner: With the quarterback position opening up at Auburn this year, all eyes will be on the nation's top junior college prospect to step in and win the job. **Cameron Newton** has all the tools.

Sleeper: It's hard to ignore **Chris Davis'** athleticism on film. He can play a number of positions, and his playmaking ability will make it tough to keep him on the bench.

Bottom Line: No coaching staff had a more impressive effort in the class of 2010 than Auburn's. The Tigers served notice that they will be a new force on the recruiting trail.



Alabama

Overview: Alabama continued its recruiting success in 2010. The Tide brought in elite national talent and also filled crucial

needs. The secondary was a priority, and by landing five-star **Demarcus Milliner**, **John Fulton**, **Dequan Menzie**, **Nick Perry** and **Jarrick Williams** that need was addressed — and then some. Speed was also an area where Alabama made some big strides. With the additions of **Corey Grant** at running back and **DeAndrew White** and **Keiwone Malone** at wide receiver, the Tide are getting an immediate injection of big-play ability.

Headliner: Though he is still a little bit raw as a corner-back, Milliner has elite track speed, great size, a good frame and a natural fluidity in coverage.

Sleeper: After a fantastic showing in a postseason all-star game, **Brandon Ivory** caught the eye of some college coaches. Ivory's size and athleticism have already drawn Terrence Cody comparisons.

Bottom Line: Nick Saban and his staff are consistently recruiting at as high a level as any program in the country. Few teams are in a position to be disappointed in a recruiting class that isn't in the top 5 nationally, but that is the case in Tuscaloosa.

TOP 20 INCOMING SEC RECRUITS

Rk.	Player	Ht./Wt.	Pos.	Hometown/School	College
1.	Ronald Powell	6-4/230	DE	Moreno Valley (Calif.) Rancho Verde	Florida
2.	Shariff Floyd	6-3/310	DT	Philadelphia George Washington	Florida
3.	Dominique Easley	6-3/258	DT	Staten Island (N.Y.) Curtis	Florida
4.	Da'Rick Rogers	6-3/206	WR	Calhoun (Ga.) High	Tennessee
5.	Marcus Lattimore	6-0/210	RB	Duncan (S.C.) Byrnes	South Carolina
6.	Michael Dyer	5-8/201	RB	Little Rock (Ark.) Little Rock Christian	Auburn
7.	Spencer Ware	5-11/220	ATH	Cincinnati Princeton	LSU
8.	Shon Coleman	6-7/285	OL	Olive Branch (Miss.) High	Auburn
9.	DeMarcus Milliner	6-2/180	DB	Millbrook (Ala.) Stanhope Elmore	Alabama
10.	Matt Elam	6-0/205	DB	West Palm Beach (Fla.) Dwyer	Florida
11.	Cameron Newton	6-6/247	QB	Brenham (Texas) Blinn C.C.	Auburn
12.	Joshua Shaw	6-1/195	DB	Palmdale (Calif.) High	Florida
13.	J.R. Ferguson	6-3/272	DE	Chatham (Va.) Hargrave Military Academy	LSU
14.	Corey Lemonier	6-5/223	DE	Hialeah (Fla.) High	Auburn
15.	Alec Ogletree	6-3/210	DB	Newman (Ga.) High	Georgia
16.	Chaz Green	6-6/290	OL	Tampa (Fla.) Catholic	Florida
17.	T.J. Stripling	6-6/215	DE	Decatur (Ga.) Southwest Dekalb	Georgia
18.	Trovon Reed	6-0/173	ATH	Thibodaux (La.) High	Auburn
19.	Jaylen Watkins	6-1/172	DB	Cape Coral (Fla.) High	Florida
20.	Jakar Hamilton	6-2/196	DB	Milledgeville (Ga.) Georgia Military College	Georgia

SEC RECRUITING



LSU

Overview: A strong close on National Signing Day propelled LSU to another terrific class. The group is headlined by five-star running back **Spencer Ware**, four-star defensive lineman **J.R. Ferguson**, in-state defensive end **Jordan Allen** and a polished, college-ready receiver in **Kadron Boone**. With the in-state talent at a lower level than in years past, LSU looked outside its state borders to land big-time prospects.

Headliner: Ware was a bit of an anomaly as an athlete playing quarterback in high school, but still showed phenomenal athleticism. His combination of great feet, physicality and competitive nature should make him a star in Baton Rouge.

Sleeper: **Armand Williams** is one of the top athletes in the country. He has a 40-plus inch vertical leap, good straight-line speed and good size. Williams could develop into another in a long line of great LSU wideouts.

Bottom Line: LSU continues to be one of the real recruiting heavyweights nationwide. With a phenomenal 2011 in-state class looming, the class of 2010 was a huge positive for Les Miles and his staff.



Tennessee

Overview: Lane Kiffin had Tennessee recruiting at an extremely high level as signing day approached. After Kiffin left for USC, new coach Derek Dooley essentially picked up right where Kiffin left off. Dooley landed four-star running back **Rajion Neal**, four-star safety **Eddrick Lofton** and four-star receiver **Justin Hunter** — all of whom were previously committed to other programs. He also stole five-star Georgia commit **Da'Rick Rogers** on signing day to salvage a tremendous Volunteer class.

Headliner: There may not be a prospect in the country that has more upside or potential than Rogers. He has a line-backer's physique with wide receiver hands and the speed and leaping ability of a cornerback.

Sleeper: Due to academic issues, **Marcques Dixon** had a slow recruitment. As a senior, Dixon accounted for eight touchdowns on kickoff returns, punt returns and interception returns.

Bottom Line: Faced with a daunting task of salvaging a promising class in a short period of time, Dooley worked miracles to land a class in the nation's top 10. The combination of Kiffin's start and Dooley's finish gives the Vols the kind of talent they need to continue their resurgence.



Georgia

Overview: The Bulldogs have a number of talented prospects in their 2010 class. **T.J. Stripling** is a unique prospect as

a lanky, wiry and athletic defensive end. **Brent Benedict** is one of the nation's top lineman, but has to recover from a devastating senior year knee injury. **Alec Ogletree** is a major pickup from within the state, as are defensive tackles **Mike Thornton** and **Garrison Smith**.

Headliner: Coming from the junior college ranks, **Jakar Hamilton** will be physically and mentally ready to play right away in Athens. He is also helped by being an early enrollee.

Sleeper: It's hard to believe that **Hutson Mason** was able to hold onto the sleeper label after passing for a Georgia state record of 4,582 yards as a senior. With a late offer from Georgia though, Mason could be the steal of the class.

Bottom Line: For a program that expects to be in the top 10 nationally year-in and year-out, this Georgia class is a relative disappointment. It is still a fantastic group with some really elite players, but Mark Richt has set the bar high for himself — and Georgia fans.



Ole Miss

Overview: Things looked tenuous for Ole Miss at times, but a furious finish helped Houston Nutt continue a solid run of recruiting success. Ole Miss picked up some major junior college contributors in **Wayne Dorsey** at defensive end, **Damien Jackson** at defensive back and **Randall Mackey** at quarterback. All of those players could potentially contribute in 2009. The defensive line recruiting came up big with teammates **Carlton Martin** and **Bryon Bennett**, upside defensive end **Carlos Thompson** and a freakishly athletic **Delvin Jones**. The offense will get more firepower with the state's top receiver, **Vincent Jackson**, heading to Ole Miss.

Headliner: Dorsey is long (6-8) with good bulk (255-pounds) and great athleticism. He was one of the most heavily recruited junior college prospects in the country last year.

Sleeper: **Cedric Smith's** recruitment didn't pick up until very late in the process, but the former Arkansas State commitment has a nice combination of coverage skills and tackling ability.

Bottom Line: Houston Nutt is making strong finishes an annual tradition. Several commitments down the stretch, even as late as signing day, pushed Ole Miss into the national top 20. The Rebels continue to bring in the talent necessary to contend for SEC West titles.



South Carolina

Overview: **Marcus Lattimore** is the type of back around which you can build an offense — and a team. Behind Lattimore, two other in-state products should provide boosts to the defense. Cornerback **Victor Hampton** and defensive tackle **Kelcy Quarles** lead the defensive haul. **A.J. Cann** brings a physical mentality and a great motor to the offensive line. Other standouts include undersized but explosive wide receiver **Ace**

SEC RECRUITING

Sanders from Florida and one of the top junior college defenders in the nation in linebacker **Toquavius Gilchrist**.

Headliner: There's not much Lattimore can't do. He's physical as a downhill back and can handle a huge workload, but he has speed to boot.

Sleeper: **Sharrod Golightly** just seems to always be around the ball, is a sure tackler and has a great feel for the game.

Bottom Line: Steve Spurrier wrangled in some help at several positions in 2010, highlighted by some big names on both sides of the ball. Spurrier may have found a few prospects who will add some explosiveness to his offense.



Mississippi State

Overview: Mississippi State asserted itself in the state and throughout the Southeast with its 2010 class. **James Carmon** leads the way as one of the best out of the junior college ranks. He is followed by the versatile **Michael Carr** and **Keleb Eulls**, as well as massive OL **Damien Robinson**. Two-way lineman **Curtis Virges**, linebacker **Ferlando Bohanna** and running back **Nick Griffin** are all players who look to have the potential to help early on in their careers.

Headliner: Carmon comes from the same junior college as Terrence Cody, and he may have the same impact in the conference. Listed at 6-7, 370 pounds, Carmon shows unbelievable feet and quickness.

Sleeper: **Malcolm Johnson** comes to Starkville as a complete wide receiver. He is strong and physical with good size and enough speed to get separation.

Bottom Line: Dan Mullen made huge strides in his first full year recruiting. He made the state of Mississippi a major priority and found a lot of success there. Though this class remains in the lower third of the SEC, it brings a lot of optimism to Starkville.



Arkansas

Overview: It was pretty clear that the focus of the 2010 class was adding beef on both sides of the ball, and the Hogs were successful in doing that. Arkansas' defensive line pull is among the best in the nation with the signings of **Calvin Barnett**, **LaCraig Brown**, **Jeremiah Jackson**, **Jatashun Beachum** and **Byran Jones**. Offensively, **Luke Charentier** and **Cam Feldt** add a lot of toughness and grit to the depth chart on the line.

Headliner: Though fellow defensive tackle Calvin Barnett was more highly rated, Jones was an absolute must-get for the Razorbacks as an elite in-state target. Jones has a motor and intensity that you can't teach.

Sleeper: He's not a polished passer and he's not a freak athlete, but **Jacoby Walker** is productive. He put up big numbers in the air and on the ground as a senior and he always seems to find a way to get the job done.

Bottom Line: With one of the best young offenses in the SEC, it was important that Arkansas added some depth on the defensive side of the ball — specifically on the defensive line. Head coach Bobby Petrino certainly did a good job of addressing needs in 2010.



Kentucky

Overview: Defense was a priority for the Wildcats in 2010. Kentucky landed eight defensive linemen, led by **Tim McAdoo** and **Mike Douglas**. UK also picked up four linebackers and four defensive backs. **Jabari Johnson** out of Stephenson High School (Ga.) and cornerback **Dale Trimble** out of Gadsden City (Ala.) are among the standouts in those groups. Offensively, Kentucky took commitments from three tight ends and three running backs.

Headliner: A four-star tight end, **Alex Smith** has a college-ready body with the ability to be a mismatch in the passing game. He also has a physical presence as a blocker.

Sleeper: **Avery Williamson** was one of the most productive defenders in the state of Tennessee. He could continue Kentucky's recent success of stealing sleepers from its southern neighbor.

Bottom Line: Kentucky doesn't bring in many big names, but it has a proven track record of finding talented prospects and turning them into impact players. The 2010 class is no different. There are very few nationally recruited players among the signees, but there are numerous players with a lot of upside.



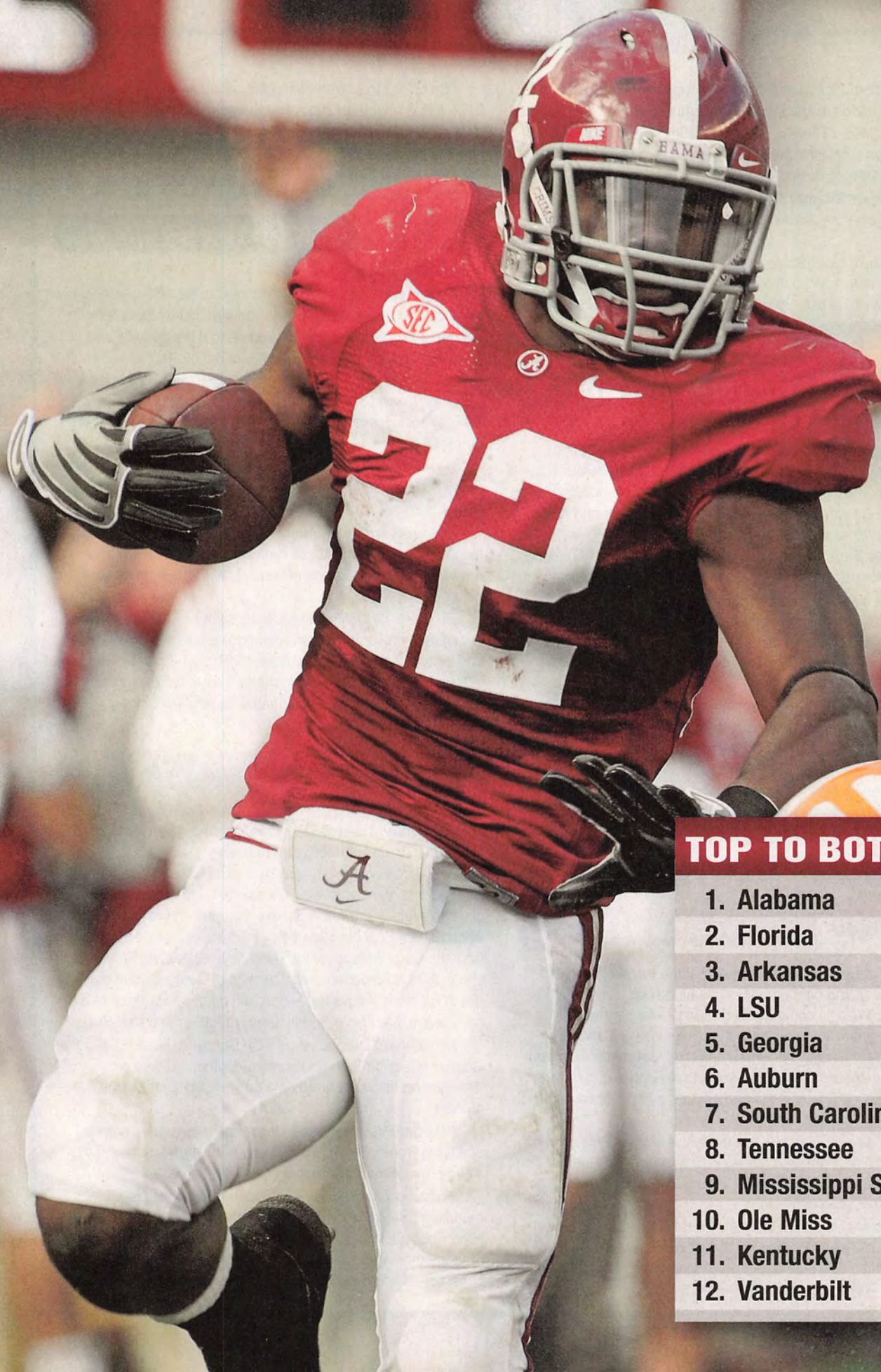
Vanderbilt

Overview: Tragedy struck the Vanderbilt program when four-star running back **Rajaan Bennett** — the best signee of the Bobby Johnson era — was murdered following signing day. Despite that, Vanderbilt was still able to bring in one of its best classes ever. Quarterback **Jordan Rodgers** — brother of QB Aaron Rodgers of the Green Bay Packers — comes to Vandy from the junior college ranks. Defensive tackle **Kyle Woestmann** chose the Commodores over the likes of Georgia, Clemson and South Carolina. **Andre Hal** is part of a deep and big defensive back group that also includes **Kenneth Ladler** and **Karl Butler**.

Headliner: Despite offers from Clemson, Boston College, Georgia, Georgia Tech and numerous other national programs, Woestmann never wavered on an early commitment to the Commodores.

Sleeper: Vanderbilt is in desperate need of a consistent and dangerous wide receiver threat. With speed, size and big-play ability, **Jordan Matthews** could fill that role.

Bottom Line: Vandy's spot at the bottom of the SEC recruiting rankings is awfully misleading when it comes to evaluating Bobby Johnson's latest recruiting effort. The Commodores rode the momentum of a bowl victory two years ago to the best collection of talent that the program has compiled in years.



TOP TO BOTTOM

1. Alabama
2. Florida
3. Arkansas
4. LSU
5. Georgia
6. Auburn
7. South Carolina
8. Tennessee
9. Mississippi State
10. Ole Miss
11. Kentucky
12. Vanderbilt

There's No Stopping Tide from Repeating in SEC

Alabama is facing the same kind of challenge Florida did a year ago.

The Crimson Tide won the 2009 national championship, and many predict Nick Saban's team will give the SEC a fifth consecutive crystal football. But the Tide lost nine defensive starters, seven players in the NFL draft and two key special teams players.

Because of personnel changes, Saban doesn't think his team should be ranked No. 1 preseason. But Alabama returns eight offensive starters, including Heisman-winning tailback Mark Ingram, quarterback Greg McElroy and receiver Julio Jones. Only two starters return to a defense that led the SEC in total yards, rushing yards and points allowed.

Arkansas, LSU and Auburn will be Bama's chief challengers in the West Division.

Arkansas won eight games in Bobby Petrino's second season, scoring at least 40 points seven times. But the Hogs were last in the SEC in total defense and pass defense.

Only two SEC teams won more games than LSU (9-4) last year, but clock mismanagement cost Les Miles some support from the Tiger faithful. LSU lost too many quality starters to unseat Alabama.

Auburn averaged more points than Alabama, but the Tigers were 79th in the NCAA and last in the league in points allowed (27.5 per game).

Despite losing former Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, Florida remains the team to beat in the East. Urban Meyer, when he's not taking a leave, has stockpiled the Gators with talent.

Georgia hired a new defensive coordinator

after Mark Richt incurred his worst season. This is South Carolina's best chance to win the East under Steve Spurrier. But Spurrier hasn't done a good job maximizing his talent, especially at quarterback.

West Division

Alabama has started the last two seasons 12-0. Two years ago, the Tide lost the SEC title game and its bowl game. Last year, it beat Florida for the SEC crown and Texas for the national championship.

Alabama's offense should be outstanding. McElroy is an elite SEC quarterback. Ingram became the first Heisman Trophy winner in Alabama's storied history, yet he'll share carries with Trent Richardson (751 yards), who might be the second-best back in the league.

Southeastern Conference Picks

SEC EAST

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
1. Florida	QB John Brantley had a great spring and his supporting cast is strong.	Can Gators convert on third-and-short without Tim Tebow? Defense lost quality defenders.	Gators won't take a huge step back and they're still plenty good enough to win the East.
2. Georgia	10 offensive starters return (all five on the line); A.J. Green is top-notch receiver.	Lost six quality defenders from a less-than-average defense; unproven quarterback.	New D-coordinator and a switch to a 3-4 scheme could help; Dawgs look again like eight-win team.
3. South Carolina	QB Stephen Garcia passed for 2,862 yards and has nice weapons; the defense is solid.	Steve Spurrier continued to second-guess Garcia during spring; must solve late-season swoons.	The Gamecocks have enough talent to win more than seven games, but Spurrier has to reclaim his offensive touch.
4. Tennessee	The defensive starters solid; the Vols are decent at skill positions and special teams.	Must replace quarterback, running back, entire O-line and All-America safety Eric Berry.	Due to attrition, another coaching change and big worries at OL and QB, Vols might not make a bowl.
5. Kentucky	Mr. Versatile Randall Cobb returns; the team's top rushers, receivers are back.	A defense that was 11th in the SEC vs. the run lost two key linebackers and an All-SEC corner.	The offense might be better this season, but defense will keep Cats from matching 7-6 mark.
6. Vanderbilt	Vandy returns top two rushers, top five receivers, star return man in Warren Norman.	The offense was 110th in the NCAA and didn't improve in spring; D-line is vulnerable.	Coach Bobby Johnson usually does a lot with a little ... but he just has too little talent.

SEC WEST

	Good news	Bad news	Our call
1. Alabama	Eight starters return from balanced offense; terrific 1-2 punch at tailback.	Nine starters gone from SEC's best defense; also lost place-kicker and return specialist.	The Tide isn't perfect, but this is still the best team, with the best coach, in the SEC ... and beyond.
2. Arkansas	Led league in points and passing behind QB Ryan Mallett; offense strong again.	Total defense and pass defense was last in the SEC; how much will defense improve?	The Hogs will be fun and will outscore a lot of teams, but the defense has to step up to win more than eight.
3. LSU	QB Jordan Jefferson got valuable experience last season, hit 61.5 percent of passes.	Lost seven defensive starters and top two RBs; what about Les Miles' clock management?	If QB improves, offense will be OK; defense lost too many starters to contend.
4. Auburn	Offense went from awful to awesome, and Gus Malzahn returns as coordinator.	Unproven QB; defense was last in league and 79th in nation in points allowed.	If quarterback play is adequate and defense improves, Tigers will be a tough out.
5. Miss. State	Bulldogs finished on high note with win over Ole Miss; 14 starters return.	Mississippi State lost all-time rusher Anthony Dixon, is still shy on overall talent.	Dan Mullen has the program going in right direction, but is still a year or two away.
6. Ole Miss	Six starters return from a defense that contained Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma State.	Rebels' offense lost QB Jevan Snead, playmaker Dexter McCluster, WR Shay Hodge.	Offense won't be nearly as productive as the Rebels appear to hit a down cycle.

Lindy's 2010 ALL-SEC Team

OFFENSE - First Team

QB	Ryan Mallett	Jr.	Arkansas
RB	Mark Ingram	Jr.	Alabama
RB	Trent Richardson	So.	Alabama
WR	A.J. Green	Jr.	Georgia
WR	Julio Jones	Jr.	Alabama
TE	Weslye Saunders	Sr.	South Carolina
C	Mike Pouncey	Sr.	Florida
OL	Ben Jones	Jr.	Georgia
OL	Lee Ziemba	Sr.	Auburn
OL	Derek Sherrod	Sr.	Miss. State
OL	Demarcus Love	Sr.	Arkansas
AP	Randall Cobb	Jr.	Kentucky
K	Blair Walsh	Jr.	Georgia

DEFENSE - First Team

DL	Chris Walker	Sr.	Tennessee
DL	Marcell Dareus	Jr.	Alabama
DL	Kentrell Lockett	Sr.	Ole Miss
DL	Pernell McPhee	Sr.	Miss. State
LB	Kelvin Sheppard	Sr.	LSU
LB	Josh Byrnes	Sr.	Auburn
LB	Dont'a Hightower	Jr.	Alabama
DB	Mark Barron	Jr.	Alabama
DB	Ahmad Black	Sr.	Florida
DB	Patrick Peterson	Jr.	LSU
DB	Stephon Gilmore	So.	South Carolina
P	Drew Butler	Jr.	Georgia

OFFENSE - Second Team

QB	Greg McElroy	Sr.	Alabama
RB	Washaun Ealey	So.	Georgia
RB	Jeff Demps	Jr.	Florida
WR	Alshon Jeffery	So.	South Carolina
WR	Greg Childs	Jr.	Arkansas
TE	Luke Stocker	Sr.	Tennessee
C	Ryan Pugh	Sr.	Auburn
OL	Jarriel King	Sr.	South Carolina
OL	James Carpenter	Sr.	Alabama
OL	Bobby Massie	So.	Ole Miss
OL	Clint Boling	Sr.	Georgia
AP	Warren Norman	So.	Vanderbilt
K	Wes Byrum	Sr.	Auburn

DEFENSE - Second Team

DL	Drake Nevis	Sr.	LSU
DL	Ladi Ajiyoye	Sr.	South Carolina
DL	Jerrell Powe	Sr.	Ole Miss
DL	Cliff Matthews	Sr.	South Carolina
LB	Nick Reveiz	Sr.	Tennessee
LB	Jerry Franklin	Jr.	Arkansas
LB	Brandon Hicks	Sr.	Florida
DB	Janoris Jenkins	Jr.	Florida
DB	Will Hill	Jr.	Florida
DB	Janzen Jackson	So.	Tennessee
DB	Chris Culliver	Sr.	South Carolina
P	Chas Henry	Sr.	Florida

The defense will have difficulty replacing several stars.

Arkansas led the SEC in passing behind Ryan Mallett (3,624 yards). The Hogs have outstanding receivers and capable runners, but a suspect defense.

Auburn went from one of the SEC's worst offenses to one of the best, scoring at least 30 points seven times. But coach Gene Chizik lost his quarterback and tailback Ben Tate (1,362 yards).

LSU was last in the SEC and 112th in the nation in total offense. The Tigers lost their top two rushers and No. 1 receiver, and quarterback Jordan Jefferson still has a lot to prove.

Ole Miss (9-4) will take the biggest slide of any SEC team, losing a solid quarterback, a 1,169-yard rusher and a receiver who caught 70 passes.

Mississippi State blasted Ole Miss and almost upset LSU and Florida. But the Bulldogs, who led the SEC in rushing but ranked 11th in passing, don't have enough talent to be a threat.

East Division

Few quarterbacks will be scrutinized as much as Florida's John Brantley, who replaces Tebow. Unlike Tebow, Brantley is a polished, drop-back passer. But he lacks

Tebow's mobility. He'll need support from running backs Jeff Demps, Emmanuel Moody and Chris Rainey, as well as receivers Carl Moore and Deonte Thompson.

The defense lost coordinator Charlie Strong and several impact starters, five taken in the first three rounds of the draft.

Georgia allowed 25.9 points per game, 63rd in the NCAA. Defensive coordinator Todd Grantham was hired from the Dallas Cowboys to turn it around. Georgia has an unproven quarterback and had a minus-16 turnover margin.

South Carolina's Stephen Garcia was second in the SEC in passing yards per game, but he's yet to win over Spurrier. The Gamecocks return their top three rushers and five of the top six receivers.

Derek Dooley has a huge rebuilding job at Tennessee. The Vols lost four of their top five defenders, a 1,300-yard rusher and their quarterback. And attrition has gutted the offensive line.

Kentucky passed the torch from Rich Brooks, who led the team to four straight bowls, to Joker Phillips. The Wildcats likely lost too many key defenders to repeat last year's 7-6 mark.

Vanderbilt had the worst offense in the SEC last year and might again.

— Jimmy Hyams

Most
Valuable
Player



Mark Ingram
RB, Alabama

Offensive
Player of the
Year



Ryan Mallett
QB, Arkansas

Defensive
Player of the
Year



Mark Barron
DB, Alabama

Newcomer
of the
Year



Cameron Newton
QB, Auburn

HONOR ROLL

Most accurate passer	Greg McElroy	Alabama
Strongest arm	Ryan Mallett	Arkansas
Best scrambler	Jordan Jefferson	LSU
Coolest in the clutch	Greg McElroy	Alabama
Toughest to bring down	Mark Ingram, RB	Alabama
Best hands	A.J. Green, WR	Georgia
Most dangerous deep threat	Greg Childs, WR	Arkansas
Best pass blocker	Lee Ziemba, OT	Auburn
Best pass rusher	Marcell Dareus, DE	Alabama
Best run blocker	Mike Pouncey, C	Florida
Best cover corner	Patrick Peterson	LSU
Special teams demon	Nick Reveiz	Tennessee

The Big Ones

Sept. 4

LSU v. N. Carolina (Atlanta)

Opener in Georgia Dome could set the tone for both teams.

Sept. 11

Penn State at Alabama
Georgia at South Carolina
Oregon at Tennessee

Joe Paterno had epic battles vs. Bear Bryant; now it's Nick Saban.
Winner usually goes on to good season; loser usually struggles.
Ducks make trip South to face another team that had tough offseason.

Sept. 18

Arkansas at Georgia
Clemson at Auburn
Florida at Tennessee

Dawgs hung 52 on Hogs last year; key contest for division race.
Interesting intersectional matchup between similar programs.
Vols scored "moral" win by holding Gators to 23 last year.

Sept. 25

Alabama at Arkansas
West Virginia at LSU

Tide won 35-7 last year; this will tell if Hogs have closed the gap.
Another intriguing non-SEC game; can LSU handle WVa spread?

Oct. 2

Florida at Alabama
Georgia at Colorado

Rematch of last two SEC title games; maybe a preview of 2010 game.
Dawgs go West of Mississippi River for second time since 1960s.

Oct. 9

Alabama at South Carolina
Arkansas vs. Texas A&M (Arlington)
LSU at Florida
Tennessee at Georgia

Perfect opportunity for Gamecocks to make the statement they want.
Hogs-Aggies make second consecutive trip to Cowboys' place.
LSU won at Swamp in '04; a key game to keep pace with Alabama.
Vols have blown out Dawgs in three of last four; 45-19 last year.

Oct. 16

Arkansas at Auburn

This will help settle West; Hogs have won two in a row on the Plains.

Oct. 23

Alabama at Tennessee
LSU at Auburn

Two blocked FGs cost UT upset in '09; Tide took over Neyland in '08.
This game used to decide West winner; now it decides second.

Oct. 30

Florida-Georgia (Jacksonville)

Gators dominating the series, have scored 90 total points in last two.

Nov. 6

Alabama at LSU

After five-game losing streak to LSU, Tide has won two in a row.

Nov. 13

Georgia at Auburn
South Carolina at Florida

In SEC's oldest rivalry, Dawgs have won four in a row over Tigers.
This remains a big game as long as Spurrier remains at South Carolina.

Nov. 26

Auburn at Alabama

After six-game losing streak to Auburn, Tide has won two in a row.

Nov. 27

Florida at FSU
Georgia Tech at Georgia
South Carolina at Clemson

Gators have won six in a row over Seminoles, the last three by 127-37.
Dawgs have won six of seven in series, but games have been tight.
Clemson won 10 of 12 before Gamecocks got decisive win in '09.



Photo by Kim Klement-US PRESSWIRE

John Brantley

Bowl Connections

SEC Champ
BCS (national title game if ranked
#1 or #2, otherwise Sugar)

SEC #2	Capital One vs. Big Ten
SEC #3-4	Outback vs. Big Ten
SEC #3-4	Cotton vs. Big 12
SEC #5-6	Chick-Fil-A vs. ACC
SEC #5-6	Gator Bowl vs. Big Ten
SEC #7-8	Music City vs. ACC
SEC #7-8	Liberty vs. Conference USA
SEC #7-9	Papajohn's.com v. Big East

1. Ryan Mallett	QB	Jr.	Arkansas	Gun for an arm, can make all the throws.
2. A.J. Green	WR	Jr.	Georgia	Great size and hands, solid route runner.
3. Patrick Peterson	CB	Jr.	LSU	Excellent cover corner with enviable size.
4. Mark Ingram	RB	Jr.	Alabama	Tacklers seem to bounce off Heisman winner.
5. Julio Jones	WR	Jr.	Alabama	Big target who commands double teams.
6. Marcell Dareus	DE	Jr.	Alabama	Great mobility for end and a good pass rusher.
7. Mark Barron	DB	Jr.	Alabama	Led SEC with seven picks, an amazing athlete.
8. Jerrell Powe	DT	Sr.	Ole Miss	Strong inside run stopper; hard to block.
9. Dont'a Hightower	LB	Jr.	Alabama	Comparable to ex-Tide star Rolando McClain.
10. Mike Pouncey	OL	Sr.	Florida	Much like brother Maurkice, who went in first round.

Average Coach's Salary Soars Past \$3 million in SEC

The ballooning market on head coaches has done some strange things to the SEC's pecking order in salary structure.

Put it this way: When Steve Spurrier went from winning a national championship at Florida to a monster deal with the Washington Redskins, to a rich contract with South Carolina six years ago, who'd have thought he'd rank in the bottom half of the league's salary list in 2010?

That's right, six coaches in the SEC are making more money than Steve Superior.

Thanks to a prorated longevity bonus, Alabama coach Nick Saban will make \$4.633 million this year, about \$500,000 more than his previous deal. That's astronomical, but at least you can say the guy has done something to draw a hefty income.

Ditto for Florida's Urban Meyer and his \$4 million deal, followed by LSU's Les Miles (\$3.75 million). Those guys have won national championships. And Georgia's Mark Richt has won, um, well, lots of games at Georgia, and so he's making \$3.1 million for this season.

Bobby Petrino was successful at Louisville, and soon thereafter Arkansas hired him away from the Atlanta Falcons, so they are paying him a tidy \$2.85 million.

Houston Nutt had some good years at Arkansas, but he got fired and immediately hired by Ole Miss a couple of years ago ... so how in the world is he making

a half-million bucks a year more than Spurrier?

And then, of course, there's the Gene Chizik saga at Auburn, which snapped him up from Iowa State, where he had not been successful, and now he's trying to turn things around on the Plains ... where he is making \$2.1 million this year.

Then there's Spurrier at an even 2-million ... and Tennessee's Derek Dooley (\$1.8 million following his 4-8 season at Louisiana Tech of all places), Kentucky's Joker Phillips (who will make \$1.7 million in his first year as a head coach) and Mississippi State's Dan Mullen (\$1.2 million). Vanderbilt's Bobby Johnson is believed to make just over \$1 million.

Coaching carousel

No SEC head coaches were fired this offseason, but two teams had a change at the top.

Lane Kiffin left Tennessee after one season to accept his dream job at USC, causing anger in Volunteer Nation. UT hired Dooley, who was 17-20 in three years at Louisiana Tech.

Rich Brooks retired after guiding Kentucky to a school-record four consecutive bowl games. He was replaced by Phillips, who had been the coach-in-waiting.

Florida, which lost defensive coordinator Charlie Strong to Louisville as head coach, hired Teryl Austin. When Paul Petrino left Arkansas, brother Bobby pro-

moted Garrick McGee to offensive coordinator. Mississippi State hired defensive coordinator Manny Diaz to replace the departed Carl Torbush.

Georgia fired Willie Martinez as defensive coordinator and hired Charles Grantham from the Dallas Cowboys.

Ole Miss lost offensive coordinator Kent Austin and brought in Dave Rader, a former Alabama playcaller.

Tennessee hired 34-year-old Justin Wilcox from Boise State to replace 69-year-old Monte Kiffin as defensive coordinator. Jim Chaney stayed as UT's offensive coordinator, but his duties expanded to calling plays. Jimmy Kiser is the new offensive coordinator at Vanderbilt after Ted Cain moved to administration.

Five programs did not change coordinators: Alabama, Auburn, Kentucky, LSU and South Carolina.

Non-conference foes

The SEC will have some intriguing non-conference games this fall.

South Carolina opens the season by hosting Southern Miss. Tennessee entertains Oregon. Georgia travels to Colorado. Penn State ventures to Alabama. LSU takes on North Carolina in Atlanta and West Virginia in Baton Rouge. Auburn tangles Clemson. Arkansas plays Texas A&M at Cowboys Stadium for the second year in a row.

Two annual matchups: Florida-Florida

Four-Year Standings

Everybody has been to a bowl in the past four seasons, although only four teams have taken things all the way to a BCS game. The East and West split the top four teams and the bottom four teams.

Team	SEC	Pct.	All	Pct.	Ch/Div	M	B	Comment
Florida	27-5	.844	48-7	.873	2/3	3	4	Gators are on a remarkable roll, five games ahead in this span.
Alabama	22-10	.688	39-15	.722	1/2	2	4	Tide is 26-2 and 16-0 in past two years ... how does 40-2, 24-0 sound?
LSU	20-12	.625	40-13	.755	1/1	2	4	Suddenly, Tigers are .500 team in league the past two years.
Georgia	20-12	.625	39-14	.736	0/0	2	4	A pattern? 2007 to 2009: 11 wins ... 10 wins ... 9 wins.
Tennessee	18-14	.563	31-21	.596	0/1	0	3	Volts look to make move with third coach in three years.
Auburn	16-16	.500	33-18	.647	0/0	0	3	Took some steps back up last year, can they keep it up?
Arkansas	16-16	.500	27-23	.540	0/1	0	3	Take away the 7-1 of 2006, and Hogs' 4-year SEC mark is 9-15.
South Carolina	13-19	.469	28-22	.560	0/0	0	2	Gamecocks seek first SEC season with better than .500 in 5 years.
Kentucky	12-20	.375	30-22	.520	0/0	0	4	Wildcats are proving success doesn't have to come in BCS bowls.
Ole Miss	11-21	.344	25-25	.500	0/0	0	2	Can Rebels sustain back-to-back nine-win seasons?
Miss State	10-22	.313	20-29	.408	0/0	0	1	Bulldogs bounced up last year, hope it's a trend.
Vanderbilt	7-25	.219	18-31	.367	0/0	0	1	Back to the future? Bowl in '08, winless conference season in '09.

Note: M=Major Bowl (BCS); B=Bowls

State and South Carolina-Clemson.

While the SEC has 15 games against 16 BCS-conference opponents, the league is playing 16 games against 19 non-BCS foes and 11 games against lower-division teams.

A passion for springtime

If you don't think SEC fans are passionate about football, check attendance at spring games.

Alabama, which had its game televised by ESPN, attracted more than 91,000 fans and has averaged 85,000 over the past four years.

Auburn had the SEC's second-largest crowd: 63,267. Florida had 51,500 come post-Tim Tebow. Georgia had more than 38,000 and Tennessee 35,000-plus — the

third-largest spring crowd in school history. Ole Miss and Mississippi State each exceeded 30,000. LSU and South Carolina topped 22,000.

Extra points

- Versatile Randall Cobb of Kentucky was the only SEC player to have 300 yards by rushing, receiving, punt returns and kick returns.

- Alabama quarterback Greg McElroy, 14-0 in his first year, is the only SEC quarterback who has double-digit wins. LSU's Jordan Jefferson is 9-5, one more than Arkansas' Ryan Mallett (8-5), Kentucky's Mike Hartline (8-6) and South Carolina's Stephen Garcia (8-8).

- The SEC has won four consecutive national championships, five in the past

seven years and eight since the league expanded in 1992.

- Georgia dismissed QB Zach Mettenberger, who was battling for the starting job.

- Tennessee is the only SEC team replacing its quarterback and all five offensive line starters.

- Auburn offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn turned down several offers to remain on The Plains.

- LSU has had 35 players drafted since 2004, but only one has reached the Pro Bowl — RB Joseph Addai of the Colts.

- For years, Tennessee had the SEC's largest stadium at more than 100,000. No more. UT seats 100,011. Alabama's expansion will exceed 101,000.

— By Jimmy Hyams

SEC in the NFL Draft

Every SEC team had at least one player drafted, as the league led the annual parade into the NFL in April. The SEC had 49 players selected, 15 more than the Big Ten. Florida (nine) had the most, followed by Alabama (seven), LSU and Tennessee (six each).

For the second year in a row, the SEC lost 14 players early to the NFL draft. Five were taken in the first round: Tennessee safety Eric Berry, Florida cornerback Joe Haden, Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain, Florida center Maurkice Pouncey and Alabama cornerback Kareem Jackson.

Florida had five players declare: Haden, Pouncey, defensive end Carlos Dunlap (second round), safety Major Wright (third)

and tight end Aaron Hernandez (fourth). That's the most ever in a given year for an SEC team.

Among other early entry news, Tennessee lost defensive back Dennis Rogan, who went undrafted. Also undrafted was Ole Miss quarterback Jevan Snead, projected to be the No. 1 overall pick by two draft analysts a year ago.

Safety Chad Jones, who helped LSU win a College World Series, went in the third round, as did Georgia linebacker Rennie Curran. Georgia safety Reshad Jones and South Carolina defensive end Clifton Geathers were sixth-round picks.

LSU's national best streak of six straight years with a first-round pick ended.

ALABAMA	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Rolando McClain	LB	1	9	Oakland
Kareem Jackson	CB	1	20	Texans
Javier Arenas	CB	2	50	Chiefs
Terrence Cody	DT	2	57	Ravens
Mike Johnson	OG	3	98	Falcons
Marquis Johnson	DB	7	211	Rams
Brandon Deaderick	DE	7	247	Patriots

ARKANSAS	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Mitch Petrus	OG	5	147	Giants

AUBURN	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Ben Tate	RB	2	58	Texans
Walter McFadden	DB	5	138	Raiders

FLORIDA	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Joe Haden	CB	1	7	Browns
Maurkice Pouncey	C	1	18	Steelers
Tim Tebow	QB	1	25	Broncos
Jermaine Cunningham	DE	2	53	Patriots
Carlos Dunlap	DE	2	54	Bengals
Brandon Spikes	LB	2	62	Patriots
Major Wright	FS	3	75	Bears
Aaron Hernandez	TE	4	113	Patriots
Riley Cooper	WR	5	159	Eagles

GEORGIA	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Rennie Curran	LB	3	97	Titans
Geno Atkins	DT	4	120	Bengals
Reshad Jones	SS	5	163	Dolphins
Jeff Owens	DT	7	243	Eagles
Kade Weston	DT	7	248	Patriots

KENTUCKY	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Corey Peters	DT	3	83	Falcons

Trevard Lindley	CB	4	105	Eagles
John Conner	RB	5	139	Jets

LSU	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Chad Jones	FS	3	76	Giants
Brandon LaFell	WR	3	78	Panthers
Al Woods	DT	4	123	Saints
Perry Riley	LB	4	103	Redskins
Trindon Holliday	KR	6	197	Texans
Charles Scott	RB	6	200	Eagles

MISSISSIPPI	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Dexter McCluster	RB	2	36	Chiefs
John Jerry	OT	3	73	Dolphins
Kendrick Lewis	FS	5	136	Chiefs
Greg Hardy	DE	6	175	Panthers

MISSISSIPPI STATE	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Anthony Dixon	RB	6	173	49ers
Jamar Chaney	LB	7	220	Eagles

SOUTH CAROLINA	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Eric Norwood	LB	4	124	Panthers
Clifton Geathers	DE	6	186	Browns

TENNESSEE	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Eric Berry	SS	1	5	Chiefs
Dan Williams	DT	1	26	Cardinals
Montario Hardesty	RB	2	59	Browns
Jacques McClendon	OG	4	129	Colts
Chris Scott	OT	5	151	Steelers
Jonathan Crompton	QB	5	168	Chargers

VANDERBILT	Pos	Rd	Overall	NFL Team
Myron Lewis	CB	3	67	Buccaneers
Thomas Welch	OL	7	208	Patriots

RATING THE SEC

QUARTERBACKS

1. Arkansas
2. Alabama
3. Florida
4. So. Carolina
5. LSU
6. Kentucky
7. Auburn
8. Georgia
9. Miss. State
10. Tennessee
11. Ole Miss
12. Vanderbilt

Arkansas' strong-armed Ryan Mallett, a transfer from Michigan, led the SEC in passing yards (3,624) and touchdown passes (30) in his first season in coach Bobby Petrino's pass-friendly system. His touchdown-interception ratio of 30-7 was outstanding, but he can improve on his 55.8 percent accuracy.

Alabama's Greg McElroy was fourth in the SEC in pass efficiency with a touchdown-interception ratio of 17-4. He completed 61 percent of his passes and outplayed Florida's Tim Tebow in the SEC Championship Game.

Florida's John Brantley figures to be the third-best quarterback in the league — a compliment to Brantley's passing skills, but an indictment on the SEC's quarterback play. Only a few teams seem set at quarterback.

South Carolina's Stephen Garcia was second in yards per game (220.2) in the SEC, but Steve Spurrier had harsh words for his junior after spring ball, creating uncertainty at the position. LSU's Jordan Jefferson started, but proved inconsistent as the Tigers' offense was last in total yards.

Three junior college quarterbacks fought for starting jobs in the spring — Cam Newton at Auburn, Matt Simms at Tennessee and Jordan Rodgers at Vanderbilt. Odds are against them. The SEC hasn't had five successful junior college quarterbacks in league history.

RUNNING BACKS

1. Alabama
2. Georgia
3. Auburn
4. Florida
5. So. Carolina
6. Arkansas
7. Kentucky
8. Ole Miss
9. Tennessee
10. Vanderbilt
11. LSU
12. Miss. State

Alabama doesn't just have the best running back in the SEC. It might have the best two.

Mark Ingram won the school's first Heisman Trophy by rushing for 1,658 yards, scoring 20 touchdowns and catching 32 passes. Trent Richardson wouldn't let Ingram get complacent, gaining 751 yards and scoring eight touchdowns. Ingram is the lone returner among the five SEC backs who cracked 1,000 yards.

Georgia might not have a great back, but it has two quality rushers in Washaun Ealey (717 yards, 5.7 per carry) and Caleb King (594 yards, 5.2 per carry). Auburn has two solid backs to run from the spread — Mario Fannin and Onterio McCalebb.

South Carolina and Arkansas have depth. The Gamecocks feature Kenny Miles (626 yards), Brian Maddox (307), Jarvis Giles (277) and blue-chip freshman Marcus Lattimore. Arkansas has Broderick Green (442 yards), Dennis Johnson (342) and Ronnie Wingo Jr. (319).

Kentucky's Derrick Locke is the No. 2 returning rusher (907 yards). Vanderbilt's Warren Norman is third (783). Ole Miss' Brandon Bolden (614 yards, 20 catches) is underrated.

Florida's speedy scat backs Jeff Demps (745, 7.5) and Chris Rainey (575, 6.5) flourished with Tim Tebow running the spread, but the system will change a bit this year. The Gators hope Emmanuel Moody will have a breakout season.

RECEIVERS

1. Arkansas
2. So. Carolina
3. Alabama
4. Georgia
5. Auburn
6. Tennessee
7. LSU
8. Florida
9. Kentucky
10. Ole Miss
11. Miss. State
12. Vanderbilt

The SEC is loaded with quality receivers. Georgia's A.J. Green and Alabama's Julio Jones are two of the nation's top wideouts and likely first-round NFL draft picks. But few teams have the depth of Arkansas and South Carolina.

The Razorbacks feature four receivers who averaged at least 16.6 yards per catch: Greg Childs (48 for 894), Jarius Wright (41 for 681), Joe Adams (29 for 568) and Cobi Hamilton (19 for 347). Tight end D.J. Williams has 93 receptions in the past two seasons.

The Gamecocks' Alshon Jeffery (46 for 763) is a big-time talent, as is 6-5 Tori Gurley (31 for 440). Weslye Saunders (32 catches) is rated by some as the nation's top senior tight end prospect.

Auburn likes Darwin Adams (60 for 997). LSU's Terrence Tolliver (53 for 735 yards) could be a high draft pick. Tennessee's Gerald Jones and Denarius Moore each caught at least 40 passes, and tight end Luke Stocker has NFL ability.

The most versatile receiver is Kentucky's Randall Cobb. He caught 39 passes for 447 yards, ran for 573 yards from the Wildcat formation and had more than 300 yards each on kickoff and punt returns.

OFFENSIVE LINE

1. Florida
2. Auburn
3. Alabama
4. Georgia
5. Arkansas
6. Miss. State
7. LSU
8. So. Carolina
9. Ole Miss
10. Tennessee
11. Kentucky
12. Vanderbilt

This might be the league's weakest area.

Georgia is the only SEC team with all five starters returning, but the Bulldogs' line wasn't very good last year. How much better will it be this year? Who knows? Georgia was seventh in the SEC in rushing last season.

Auburn has four starters back from a group that helped the Tigers run for 212 yards per game — one of four SEC teams to surpass the 200 mark. Auburn was one of only two SEC teams to average at least 200 yards rushing and passing per game (Florida was the other).

Despite losing first-round pick Maurkice Pouncey, the Gators have one of the SEC's most physical lines, led by Pouncey's brother, Mike. Arkansas also returns four line starters, but the unit is better at pass protecting — a point of emphasis in the Hogs' system — than run blocking. Arkansas averaged 131.8 rushing yards — 81st in the nation.

Alabama and LSU — programs strong up front in recent years — have lost key personnel. The Tide, thanks to line coach Joe Pendry, figures to be one of the SEC's best again. LSU was 90th in the nation in rushing last year and lost its top two backs.

Conference Defensive Tradition Continues

DEFENSIVE LINE

1. Alabama
2. Tennessee
3. Ole Miss
4. So. Carolina
5. Miss. State
6. LSU
7. Florida
8. Georgia
9. Auburn
10. Kentucky
11. Arkansas
12. Vanderbilt

A usual position of dominance is a position of concern for many SEC teams. A league of formidable front fours had 13 defensive linemen drafted by the NFL, and not one team returns each starter.

Despite losing two draft picks, Alabama is again strong up front. End Marcell Dareus already seems like one of league's top defenders. He led the Tide with 6.5 sacks and was defensive MVP of the national title game. Nose tackle Josh Chapman is a run stuffer.

Tennessee end Chris Walker (six sacks) is a prolific pass rusher. Ends Ben Martin and Gerald Williams are solid. Tackle Montori Hughes is more talented than first-round pick Dan Williams. Marlon Walls had three sacks in the spring game. Depth at tackle is an issue.

Ole Miss has end Kentrell Lockett (five sacks, 10 tackles for loss) and robust tackle Jerrell Powe, a projected first-rounder. Mississippi State has one of the league's most underrated ends, Pernell McPhee, who had five sacks, 12 tackles for loss, eight QB pressures and four pass deflections.

South Carolina (Cliff Matthews, Ladi Ajiboye) returns two quality linemen. LSU tackle Drake Nevis is an All-SEC candidate. Florida returns only one starter, but has recruited well.

LINEBACKERS

1. Auburn
2. Alabama
3. Tennessee
4. Georgia
5. Florida
6. So. Carolina
7. LSU
8. Arkansas
9. Miss. State
10. Ole Miss
11. Vanderbilt
12. Kentucky

Auburn's overall defense wasn't good last season, but don't blame the linebackers. Josh Byrnes recorded 104 tackles and Craig Stevens added 95.

Not many teams can lose two quality linebackers, yet have an outstanding crew coming back. Alabama's Dont'a Hightower missed last season with a knee injury, but he ranked fourth on the team in tackles as a true freshman in 2008. Nico Johnson is a talent. The Tide has some promising young players ready to emerge.

Tennessee doesn't have a great linebacker, but it has several good ones, led by Nick Reveiz, who packs a punch at 5-9, 224 pounds. LaMarcus Thompson, Savion Frazier, Greg King and Herman Lathers have started.

Vanderbilt's Chris Marve (121 stops) and LSU's Kelvin Sheppard (110) are the leading returning tacklers in the SEC. Florida has another Brandon at linebacker — Brandon Hicks. Arkansas' Jerry Franklin racked up 94 stops. K.J. Wright of Mississippi State is an All-SEC candidate.

Georgia, moving to a 3-4 front, has a strong trio in Akeem Dent, Darryl Gamble and Justin Houston, a playmaker who now starts at outside linebacker. South Carolina's Shaq Wilson is a rising star.

SECONDARY

1. Florida
2. So. Carolina
3. Auburn
4. LSU
5. Alabama
6. Tennessee
7. Arkansas
8. Miss. State
9. Kentucky
10. Georgia
11. Ole Miss
12. Vanderbilt

Florida lost a first-round pick and another player taken in the NFL Draft, yet the Gators easily have the most talented secondary in the league.

Janoris Jenkins is one of the premier cover corners in the SEC. Is there a team in the country with two better safeties than Ahmad Black and Will Hill? Black was second on the team with 70 tackles. Hill was sixth on the team in tackles despite splitting time. The Gators should lead the SEC in pass defense again.

South Carolina was second in pass defense last year and should be outstanding. Corner Stephon Gilmore was one of the leagues' top freshmen last season. Second-team All-SEC safety Chris Culliver had nine pass deflections and excels at returning kicks. Corner Akeem Auguste and rover Antonio Allen will make it tough on opponents' passing games.

Auburn has three returning starters, led by corner Neiko Thorpe. LSU's Patrick Peterson (13 deflections) rivals Jenkins as the top cover corner in the SEC. Tennessee's Janzen Jackson has All-SEC potential. Alabama's lone returner is athletic safety Mark Barron, who led the SEC with seven interceptions and 18 pass deflections.

Mississippi State and Kentucky each return three starters. The Wildcats will miss corner Trevard Lindley.

SPECIAL TEAMS

1. Georgia
2. So. Carolina
3. Florida
4. Auburn
5. Arkansas
6. LSU
7. Tennessee
8. Ole Miss
9. Kentucky
10. Alabama
11. Vanderbilt
12. Miss. State

Georgia has the nation's best punter-kicker combination in Drew Butler and Blair Walsh.

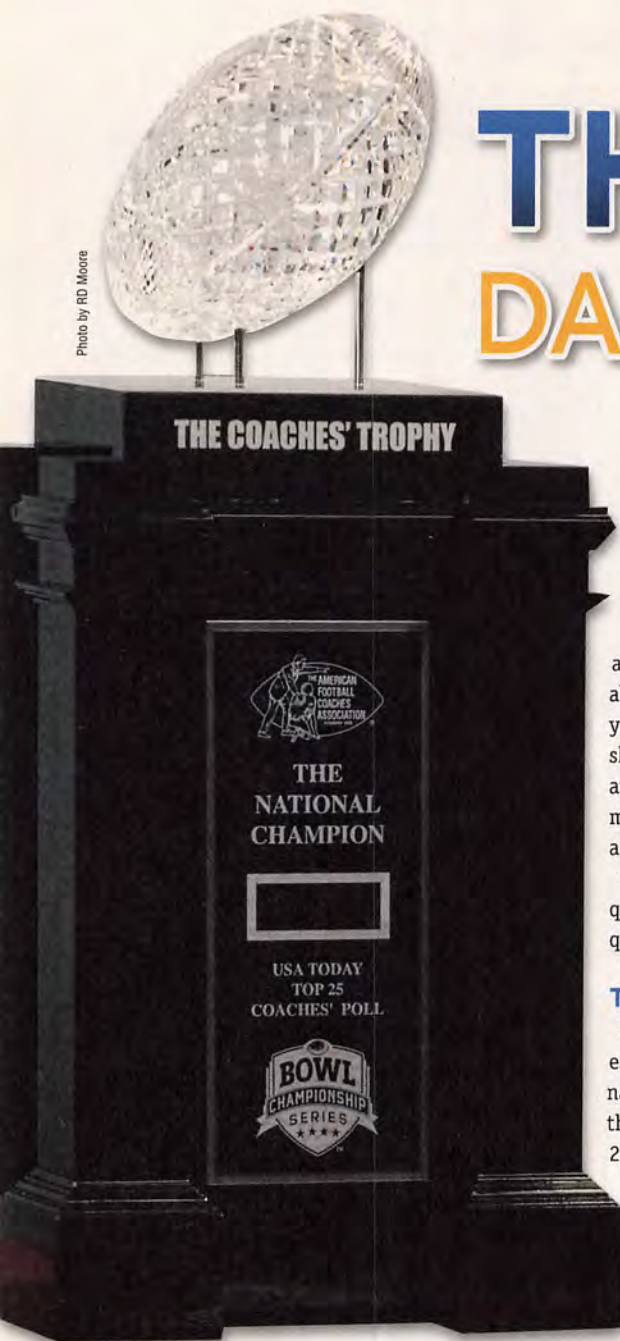
Butler led the nation by averaging 48.1 yards per punt — four yards better than the runner-up. His long: 75 yards. Walsh made 20 of 22 field-goal attempts and has lots of range. Brandon Boykin averaged 26 yards per kick return and had an SEC-leading three touchdowns.

South Carolina is also strong on special teams. Spencer Lanning was fourth in the SEC in punting (41.9) and nailed 17 of 20 field goals. USC has two dangerous return men — Chris Culliver (22.5 yards on kick returns) and Stephon Gilmore (10.1 on punt returns).

Florida lost SEC record-setting returner Brandon James, but the Gators can always find an athletic return man. Punter Chas Henry (43.4) was third in the SEC in punting; Caleb Sturgis converted 22 of 30 field-goal attempts and was second in the league in kick scoring (110 points).

Auburn returns Demond Washington, who led the SEC and was sixth in the nation in kick returns (31.1). Three kick returners amassed over 1,000 yards: Leon Berry of Mississippi State, Warren Norman of Vanderbilt and Dennis Johnson of Arkansas. Norman led the SEC in all-purpose yards.

Kentucky's Randall Cobb is the leading returning punt returner (12.8).



THE SEC... DANG, IT'S GOOD!

BY MICHAEL DIROCCO

best teams, coaches and players come from 12 schools in nine southern states?

The answers: No. Yes. Absolutely.

To help you win the unneeded argument, we've put together irrefutable facts that you can throw out at your Big Ten or Big 12 friends that should, eventually, make them go away. Or make them shut up. Or just make sure you walk away with a smirk on your face.

So let's get on with it, because the quicker you get through this, the quicker you can yell, "Scoreboard!"

THE TEAMS

Starting with recent history is easiest: The SEC has won the past four national championships and five of the last seven — LSU in 2003 and 2007, Florida in 2006 and 2008, and Alabama in 2009.

Opponents will attack LSU in 2007, saying the Tigers didn't deserve to play for the national title with two losses. The two losses, however, were each in triple overtime — 43-37 at No. 18

Kentucky and 50-48 at home to Arkansas.

The Tigers had to get by top-ranked Ohio State in the BCS National Championship Game, and the Buckeyes were still stinging from the embarrassing 41-14 beating Florida handed them the previous season.

Ohio State went up 10-0 before LSU scored 31 unanswered points en route to a 38-24 victory. The Buckeyes committed three turnovers and converted 3-of-13 third downs. So much for revenge.

As for a more complete historical perspective, the SEC again comes out on top.

The league has won 17 national championships since 1936, which is generally regard-

ed as the beginning of modern college football because that is when the Associated Press poll began. The closest competitor is the Big 7/8/12, which has won 13.

Those numbers include BCS titles, which replaced the AP poll for crowning the national champion beginning with the 1998 season. The SEC has won six BCS national titles. The only other league that has won more than one is the Big 12 (Oklahoma in 2000 and Texas in 2005).

THE COACHES

There are a lot of glittery, heavy, gaudy rings on coaches' fingers in the SEC. Six, to be exact.

Four current SEC coaches have won national championships at three schools. Urban Meyer has won two at Florida (2006 and 2008). Nick Saban has won two — one at LSU in 2003 and one at Alabama in 2009.

Les Miles won the title with LSU in 2007, and South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier led Florida to the national title in 1996.

No other league has more than two active coaches with national titles. The Big 12 and Big Ten have two: Oklahoma's Bob Stoops (2000) and Texas' Mack Brown (2005) in the Big 12, and Ohio State's Jim Tressel (2002) and Joe Paterno (1982 and 1986). Paterno's titles came when the Nittany Lions were an independent.

Arizona State's Dennis Erickson is the only other active coach in a BCS conference with a national title (Miami in 1989 and 1991).

As for the list of coaches who have won the most national titles, the SEC leads that, too. Alabama's Paul "Bear" Bryant won five, followed by Minnesota's Bernie Bierman and Notre Dame's Frank Leahy with four.

Bud Wilkinson and Barry Switzer each won three titles with Oklahoma, as did John McKay at Southern California.

The argument is ongoing, but it usually heats up twice a year — during bowl season and from May to August.

Which is the best conference in college football?

Midwesterners will posture for the Big 12 or Big Ten. Out West, the Pac-10 rules. In the East ... well, anyone who makes a case for the ACC or Big East has a flawed argument.

But, really, is the argument necessary? Doesn't the Southeastern Conference rule the landscape of college football?

Isn't there overwhelming evidence that the

THE PLAYERS

How do you determine which conference has the best players? How about by using people whose livelihood depends on making sure they know the best players: NFL personnel people.

That means a breakdown of the NFL Draft, paying particular attention to the first round, which — theoretically, anyway — is basically a list of the top college football players in the country.

Beginning with the 2000 draft, the SEC has had 73 players drafted in the first round, the most of any conference. The Big Ten is second with 63, followed by the ACC with 52.

Players were counted in the conference in which their school was a member at the time of the draft. Miami and Virginia Tech draft picks counted among ACC players beginning in 2005, and Boston College draft picks counted among ACC players beginning in 2006. Before then, all three schools' draft picks counted among Big East players.

In those 11 drafts, the SEC has had more players drafted in the first round than any other BCS conference at running back (nine), center (two), guard (two), overall offensive linemen (11), defensive tackles (11), overall defensive linemen (20) and defensive backs (12). It is tied with the Big Ten with seven offensive tackles drafted.

Considering the SEC's reputation for being a conference built on speed, the fact that some of the more skilled position players come from the league is not surprising. But the fact that the majority of the offensive and defensive linemen drafted in the first round have played at SEC schools is even more impressive.

But it's the speed that makes a difference there, as well, especially on the defensive line.

"(Defensive tackles) are the hardest to find in college and the hardest to get in the NFL," Minnesota coach Tim Brewster told *Lindy's* last year. "You see an abundance of very talented big, strong and fast defensive tackles in the SEC and in the South."

The SEC had 49 players selected in the seven-round 2010 draft, the most in conference history and 15 more than the closest league (Big Ten, 34). The league has led or tied for the most players drafted in 11 of the past 13 seasons.

Since 1990, the SEC has had 782 players selected in the draft, which was shortened from 12 rounds to seven in 1993. The Big Ten is second with 672 selections.

But that's logical since the SEC is the best in the nation at signing those top players.

The league has had more teams than any other BCS league represented in Rivals.com's

Top 10 recruiting rankings since 2002. SEC schools occupied 36 of the 90 spots, followed by the Big 12 (17), ACC (14), Pac-10 (11), the Big Ten (nine) and Notre Dame (three).

An SEC team has held the top spot in Rivals.com's rankings four times, tied with the Pac-10.

THE FANS

OK, we threw in an extra one for you, just in case your Big Ten or Big 12 opponent hasn't hit the canvas yet.

The SEC led the nation in total attendance — for the 29th consecutive year — with

6,560,738 fans attending games in 2009. That's more than 1 million more than the second-place Big Ten (5,526,237).

The SEC does have four stadiums among the nation's top 10 biggest, but the three largest belong to Big Ten schools Penn State (107,282), Michigan (106,201) and Ohio State (102,329).

So, what's left to say? The SEC tops the other BCS conferences when it comes to teams, coaches, players and fans. There can't be a Big Ten, ACC, Pac-10, Big 12 or Big East fan with any points left to argue.

You're welcome.



2010 BCS ALABAMA VS. TEXAS



2009 BCS FLORIDA VS. OKLAHOMA

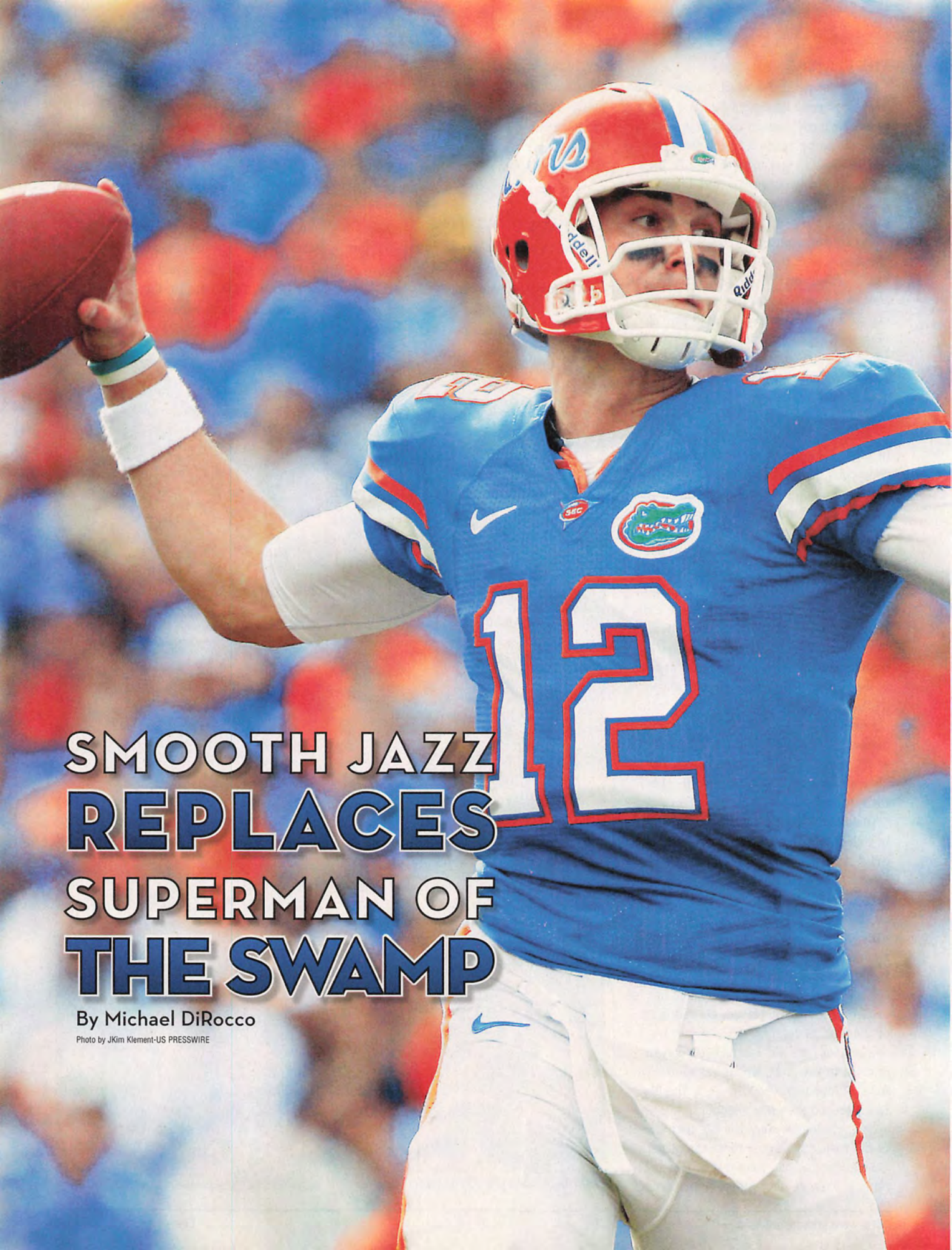


2008 BCS LSU VS. OHIO STATE

Photo by RD Moore

Photo by Chris Graythen/Getty Images

Photo by Donald Miralle/Getty Images



SMOOTH JAZZ REPLACES SUPERMAN OF THE SWAMP

By Michael DiRocco

Photo by JKim Klement-US PRESSWIRE

Elvis has left Gainesville.

And in his place is ... Kenny G?

No more screaming girls, long lines of autograph seekers or widely circulated Internet photos of a supposed girlfriend.

Just a laid-back, mellow atmosphere, and the ability to walk through the mall without being noticed. But a talented guy nevertheless.

Things certainly are different now that Tim Tebow is in Denver and John Brantley has become Florida's starting quarterback. The red-shirt junior from Ocala, Fla., is nothing like the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner.

Not on the field: Brantley is a pocket passer who won't be carrying the ball on fourth-and-1.

And not off it, either: He won't be preaching at prisons and orphanages or helping perform circumcisions in the Philippines, for that matter.

But the biggest difference between the two is how they want to lead their teams. Tebow was in-your-face rock 'n' roll.

Brantley is smooth jazz.



"He was a great vocal leader," Brantley said. "He knew how

to win games. He knew how to take over the team when stuff was going bad.

"I'm not like that, but I've learned to be a little bit more vocal. Not all the jumping around stuff, but just behind the scenes more of a leader and behind the scenes more vocal."

So the Gators won't get this from Brantley: Waving his arms to pump up the Florida Field crowd, or screaming into a defensive huddle, or issuing impassioned, emotional speeches in postgame interviews.

But they will get this: A player who is eager to prove himself and wants to win just as badly as Tebow did. Just without the effusive and boisterous behavior.

Nobody has a problem with that, either. "Everyone does things in different ways and every team has a different dynamic to it," offensive coordinator Steve Addazio said.

"The 2010 team will be different than 2009, which was different than 2006. Same with players. I think Johnny is a very competitive, fiery guy, but everyone's personality is different, and they all work.

"I'd say by nature he's a pretty easy-going guy, but he's a real competitor on the field,

now. Make no mistake about that. Don't get lulled to sleep with that stuff. But off the field he's an easy-going, good guy. What you see is what you get. That's Johnny."

Brantley's teammates don't want him to try to imitate Tebow, anyway. That would come across as phony, and Brantley would end up losing the respect he has already gained because of the way he handled himself last season during Tebow's concussion saga.

Besides, there are players who are more than willing to take over for Tebow as the Gators' fiery leader.

"I've got to take over that role," senior center Mike Pouncey said. "I can't let Brantley yell at 'em."

Brantley was never a guy who yelled a lot, his high school coach said, but he didn't need to because he had a quiet confidence that his teammates respected.

"He was a kid that was sort of reserved, but really sure about himself," said Jacksonville University football coach Kerwin Bell, who coached Brantley at Trinity Catholic.

"He carried himself really well. Every quarterback has to have that deal where he walks around and everybody has to know he's somebody special. He always had that. When he walked into the room, there was something there.

"He's not cocky. He's not cocky at all. He doesn't talk about what he's done, but he carries himself in a confident manner."

Not always, but it began after his sophomore season in high school, when Brantley shared time with a senior in 2004. But he was the unquestioned starter going into the 2005 season.

He struggled during spring and fall practices against a defense that returned eight starters from a unit that posted eight shutouts the previous season, and Bell said it took a while before Brantley understood how to handle himself when things weren't going well.

"Boy, he'd get frustrated," Bell said.

"(I told him), 'Instead of dropping your head you've got to do something about it.' You could see the passion. He wanted to make every pass great and every play be the best.

He wasn't getting the job done early on against our defense in practice. As he went on, you can see he picked up his game and said, 'I've got to be the leader of this team.'"

He turned into a pretty good one, going 27-1 as a starter and throwing for 99 touchdown passes in his career — setting the state-record, one more than Tebow and former Florida State quarterback Xavier Lee.

Brantley threw for more than 2,800 yards and 41 touchdowns to lead Trinity Catholic to the Class 2B state title in 2005 and for 2,766 yards and 41 touchdowns as a senior in 2006.

Brantley capped his career by being named a U.S. Army All-American and the Gatorade National Player of the Year. Rivals.com ranked him the No. 3 pro-style quarterback in the nation behind Jimmy Clausen and Ryan Mallett.

And then he got to Gainesville and sat and watched Tebow put together one of the most impressive seasons in college football history — 55 total touchdowns (23 rushing, 32 passing) and 4,027 yards of total offense — to become the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy.

Brantley, though, has played well in his brief appearances in the past two seasons, completing 71 percent of his passes (54 for 76) for 645 yards and 10 touchdowns with only one interception.

Still, he didn't really need to lead. The Gators were still Tebow's team. Now they're his, and he knows the area in which he needs the most improvement is being more of a vocal leader.

"I feel like it's my huddle now. I definitely do," Brantley said. "That's what I've been working on with that leadership, being more vocal in the huddle. ... I'm progressing in it."

He'll never be as fiery and emotional as Tebow, but that's OK, Addazio said. He likes jazz, too.

"He's come a long way," Addazio said.

"He's a guy that's paid his dues and has the respect of his teammates because he's worked really hard. Players respect guys for a lot of reasons, one of which is you can't fool players. If you're a hard worker and you're good at what you do, guys respect that."

TOP RETURNING PASSERS IN THE SEC

No.	Player	Com-Att	Pct.	Yds	TD	INT	Yds/gm
1.	Ryan Mallett, Arkansas	225-403	55.8	3,624	30	7	278.8
2.	Stephen Garcia, S. Carolina	239-432	55.3	2,862	17	10	220.2
3.	Greg McElroy, Alabama	198-325	60.9	2,508	17	4	179.1
4.	Jordan Jefferson, LSU	182-296	61.5	2,166	17	7	180.5
5.	Larry Smith, Vanderbilt	106-227	46.7	1,126	4	7	125.1



GO AHEAD AND PLAY THE
TRUMP CARDS, SEC





conflict, it will be written, started in a small conference room at a Scottsdale, Ariz. resort.

It was on that day in April that Mike Slive, lawyer-turned-revolutionary, calmly unfolded a piece of paper and began reading his manifesto to the assembled media.

"If there is going to be a significant shift in the conference paradigm," Slive began, "the SEC will be strategic and thoughtful to make sure it maintains its position as one of the nation's pre-eminent conferences."

Cool, confident and articulate, the SEC commissioner fired his warning shot at the Big Ten.

As the season opens, conference expansion hangs in the air like the smoke from an LSU tailgate. But Slive's words from that day endure. He decided that day to use the media at the annual BCS meetings to get his message across to Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany.

Bring it, son.

In case you missed it, we're in the middle of a new Potsdam Conference, where the leaders of college athletics carve up post-war Europe, er, Division I-A, er, the Football Bowl Subdivision. Slive, trained as a lawyer, merely used his gift of oration to kick off this turf war.

And there will be one, as soon as the Big Ten decides which team(s) to poach to expand its national reach. The Big Ten Network has been such a profit center in four short years that Delany has become a bit of Genghis Khan looking for new lands to conquer.

Slive was using his big words to issue a short message: If the Big Ten expands, the SEC is ready to throw down. The conferences are No. 1 (Big Ten) and No. 2 (SEC) in revenue produced. They didn't get that way by being timid.

The Big Ten has the biggest contract. The SEC has the best football. Together they control the hearts, minds and viewership of 50 percent of the population. Apart, though, they are rivals on the expansion issue.

For the first time in the spring, Delany suggested publicly that the conference might add more than one team. According to various reports, Nebraska, Missouri, Syracuse, Rutgers and Pittsburgh were on the Big Ten's wish list.

It doesn't really matter which schools. It's which combination keeps the Big Ten on the most TVs making the most money. And to keep the SEC in second place.

"You're not trying to find somebody you want to spend a year with," Delany said, "you're trying to find out who

you're going to be with for the next 25-50 years."

The SEC's answer? We're getting to that. For now, heed the word of the lawyer-turned-revolutionary.

"I won't sit back," Slive said, "and just ignore what is going on around me."

The SEC finds itself having to be proactive. It didn't get to its current position — a 15-year partnership worth \$3 billion with ESPN and CBS — by waiting for the parade to pass by. Roy Kramer started the championship-game trend by adding Arkansas and South Carolina in 1992.

Well, it's time again. In response to the Big Ten, or maybe before its rival league acts, the SEC needs to add these four schools to secure market share ... and then some:

Texas: Ever since the latest round of expansion talk started, Notre Dame and Texas became the only consensus slam-dunk targets. ND has — sort of — reiterated its desire to stay independent.

At best the Irish are a "maybe" to the Big Ten. But the only place Texas fits, if a change is imminent, is the SEC. It had a standing offer from the Pac-10 17 years ago. Then, as is now, the Pac-10 is geographically undesirable. As is the Big Ten.

The SEC could be a soft landing place whether or not the Big 12 starts to disintegrate. The money is better (\$17 million per year in the SEC) and so is the exposure. The Big 12's annoying Fox deal has two years to run. The current deal with ESPN doesn't expire for five more years.

That's a bad thing because the Big 12 could be worth a lot more in these shifting sands of time. Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds prints money overseeing the nation's No. 1 revenue-producing ath-

letic department. He is well on his way to creating another revenue stream in the "Longhorn Channel," an in-state network.

Everybody wins with Texas in the SEC. Arkansas gains back its natural rival and is able to recruit again in Texas. The Longhorns wouldn't have to mess around with having to host (and visit) Iowa State and Baylor.

"The Big 12 is good for us," Dodds said, leaving the door just open. "That's not saying there are other things that don't work."

Miami: Let's admit it. The expanded ACC has been a borderline failure in football. What's more, the league has arguably lost its position as the nation's best basketball conference.

The SEC would do for Miami what the ACC couldn't. The U still holds cache as a brand and has the South Florida market. Get Miami in the SEC and suddenly you turn on that entire South Florida region to the SEC. Think of a conference featuring the Big Three — Miami, Florida and ...

Florida State: Yeah, that's right. Throw the Seminoles a lifeline, too. Florida State is run like an SEC program anyway. Tallahassee is as Deep South as it gets.

Think of Alabama, LSU and Tennessee coming through Tally on a regular basis. Florida already does. There were 17,000 empty seats (at least) at Doak last year for the Maryland game. That would never happen again.

FSU needs to become a superpower again. It isn't going to happen in the sleepy ACC.

Georgia Tech: A natural rival of Georgia and a former SEC member (1933-63), Tech is the easiest fit in this scenario.

It has always been sort of awkward for the Jackets to be playing in the ACC in the traditional center of the SEC, Atlanta. Recruiting would definitely improve. Imagine Tech being able to go head-to-head with Georgia in recruiting. Imagine Tech beating Georgia and then being able to stay home in the SEC championship game.

Imagine Tech's academics classing up the SEC.

All this is a pipe dream, you say? First, understand that if the Big Ten goes superconference, the SEC will do *something*. Making the move to pick up these four teams would put the SEC in position to let the Big Ten have all the Midwest TVs it wants, including Notre Dame.

Texas, Florida, and locking up the rest of the South with Georgia Tech indeed would trump the Big Ten once and for all.



Photo by RD Moore

Mike Slive

Dennis Dodd is a senior writer for CBSSports.com covering college football.

**ALABAMA**

CRIMSON TIDE

For more coverage of the Crimson Tide, visit alabama.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim McElwain

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kirby Smart

STADIUM: Bryant-Denny: 101,000

AT A GLANCE

2009

14-0, 8-0 SEC (1st, West)

COACH

Nick Saban — At Alabama: 33-8, 3 years;
overall: 124-50-1, 14 years

RETURNING STARTERS

10; 8 offense, 2 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Greg McElroy, RB Mark Ingram, RB Trent Richardson, WR Julio Jones, C William Vlachos, SS Mark Barron, LB Dont'a Hightower, DE Marcell Dareus

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Offense should be no problem with Heisman-winning tailback Mark Ingram back to spark the ground game and Trent Richardson ready to make his mark. Quarterback Greg McElroy still has not lost a game he has started. He has WRs Julio Jones and Marquis Maze to throw to while setting up behind an experienced offensive line.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The defense is a complete mystery with only two starters back from a dominating unit that was the backbone of the national championship season. Alabama needs to identify playmakers in a hurry, and while Dont'a Hightower looks completely recovered from the injury that cost him 10 games last year, he has big shoes to fill after the departure of Rolando McClain.

KEY LOSSES

LB Rolando McClain, DB Javier Arenas, K Leigh Tiffin, NT Terrence Cody, OG Mike Johnson, CB Kareem Jackson

OVERVIEW

The Crimson Tide is locked and loaded on offense with eight starters returning, but can the defense come around and be strong enough to lead Alabama back to a championship, either SEC or national? It's not like there isn't enough talent, but guys who played a lot last year will have to shoulder the load. They likely can get it done.

By Forgetting About Title Run, Tide Hopes to Repeat It

Athletic director Mal Moore brought Nick Saban to Tuscaloosa to do one thing — return Alabama to the top of the college football universe. It's doubtful that even Moore imagined it would happen so fast.

Alabama came close in 2008, Saban's second season, finishing 12-0 before losing the SEC Championship Game to Florida after holding the lead in the fourth quarter, and then losing the Sugar Bowl to undefeated Utah.

Last season was perfect. Not only did Alabama win its 22nd SEC championship, it locked down its 13th national crown with a win over Texas at the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena.

Now, Saban has to make sure that this current team doesn't let it all go to its head.

Here comes a preseason No. 1 ranking ... and why not?

After all, Alabama returns a starting quarterback who has never lost a game he started in high school or college; a Heisman Trophy running back who is at his best after he's been hit two or three times on each play; and a sure-handed wide receiver who manages to find himself open on every pass pattern.

The line is loaded with experience and the defense, though returning only two starters, has a talented group of players who logged plenty of playing time in the national championship run last season.

"If this team is No. 1, it's because of what they did last year because they haven't done anything," said Saban.

"We have some good players back and we have a lot of issues and questions, especially on defense and with our specialist in the kicking game. How those problems get solved and what kind of commitment and attention to detail this team has to improve and focus on the process of what

they need to do to be successful is going to determine how good this team is.

"That can't be determined in a poll, and it doesn't make any difference what anybody thinks, it's not where you start, it's where you finish."

That's the message Saban has been trying to get across to his players. They seem to have listened.

"We're not worried about last year's team. We won the championships, both SEC and national, and those will be there forever," said Mark Ingram, the returning Heisman Trophy winner. "This year we're focused on our team. We can't live in the past because we are going to be judged on the future."

OFFENSE

Alabama's offense is loaded. Eight starters return to a unit that was the 12th best rushing team in the nation. This year, it should be even better.

Returning are running backs Mark Ingram, who rushed for 1,658 yards and 17 touchdowns on the way to becoming Alabama's first Heisman Trophy winner, and Trent Richardson, who rushed for 751 yards and scored eight touchdowns as a backup. The pair also combined to catch 48 passes for 460 yards and three scores.

Offensive coordinator Jim McElwain would like to throw to the running backs more this fall and give them room to operate in space.

"Our checkdowns have always been a staple of our offense," said junior quarterback Greg McElroy.

"Trent, Mark or Eddie (Lacy), Demetrius (Goode), any of those guys, if you get the ball in their hands they will make plays for you. We did that a couple of times last year. I remember one vividly versus North Texas where it was a quick checkdown because everyone dropped



Greg McElroy Photo by R.D. Moore

Mark Ingram

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Greg McElroy*	Sr.	Still hasn't lost a game as a starter.	A.J. McCarron, Fr.
RB	Mark Ingram*	Jr.	Alabama's first Heisman Trophy winner.	Trent Richardson, So.
WR	Julio Jones*	Jr.	Started slowly last year, but finished strong.	Kenny Bell, Fr.
WR	Marquis Maze*	Jr.	Emerging as a big-play specialist.	Brandon Gibson, Jr.
WR	Darius Hanks*	Sr.	Started seven games in '09; 26 career catches.	Kevin Norwood, Fr.
TE	Michael Williams	So.	Had an outstanding spring.	Preston Dial, Sr.
LT	James Carpenter*	Sr.	Started 14 games in 2009; All-SEC candidate.	John Michael Boswell, Jr.
LG	Chance Warmack	So.	Can move defensive linemen off the ball.	Alfred McCullough, Jr.
C	William Vlachos*	Jr.	Became a leader of the offensive line.	David Ross, Sr.
RG	Barrett Jones*	So.	Started all 14 games as redshirt freshman.	Brian Motley, Sr.
RT	D.J. Fluker	Fr.	Massive prospect with good feet.	Tyler Love, So.
K	Cade Foster	Fr.	Strong leg; will need to replace Leigh Tiffin.	Colin Gallagher, Sr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Marcell Dareus	Jr.	Had outstanding spring; a sack machine.	Damion Square, So.
NG	Josh Chapman	Jr.	Expected to replace Mt. Cody in middle of line.	Kerry Murphy, So.
DE	Luther Davis	Sr.	Has 26 career tackles, with five for loss.	Darrington Sentimore, Fr.
LB	Courtney Upshaw	Jr.	Physical LB known for hard-hitting style	Ed Stinson, Fr.
LB	Dont'a Hightower*	Jr.	Trying to return from a devastating injury.	Tana Patrick, Fr.
LB	Chris Jordan	Jr.	Physical tackler with excellent size, speed.	Nico Johnson, So.
LB	Jerrell Harris	Jr.	Has outstanding speed and quickness.	Chavis Williams, Sr.
CB	B.J. Scott	So.	Moved to DB after starting at wide receiver.	John Fulton, Fr.
CB	Dre Kirkpatrick	So.	Big, physical DB with speed and agility.	Phelon Jones, Jr.
SS	Mark Barron*	Jr.	Led SEC in interceptions with seven.	Rod Woodson, So.
FS	Robert Lester	So.	Played in eight games as a freshman.	DeMarcus Milliner, Fr.
P	Jay Williams	Fr.	Has a strong leg and good hang time.	Taylor Pharr, Sr.

*Returning Starter

out and Mark turned it into a big touchdown run.

"Everyone 'oohs' and 'aahs' at the long passes, but if you average four yards per carry everyone says you have a great running game. But if you throw a four-yard completion to the running back — which is essentially a segmentation of the running game — it can add up pretty quick."

The line will be anchored by center William Vlachos, left tackle James Carpenter and right guard Barrett Jones, who each started all 14 games last season. Red-shirt freshman D.J. Fluker is a massive presence at right tackle, and sophomore Chance Warmack looks to move into the left guard spot vacated by Mike Johnson.

McElroy, who completed 198 of 325 passes for 2,508 yards and 17 touchdowns, will be back looking to keep his perfect record as a starter intact. He will be backed up by freshman A.J. McCarron, with sophomore Star Jackson and

freshman Phillip Sims all vying for playing time. Each was outstanding in the spring.

The receiving corps is in good hands with Julio Jones, Marquis Maze and Darius Hanks. They had a combined 91 receptions for 1,391 yards and nine touchdowns last season.

"We got a bunch of (offensive weapons)," said McElroy. "We have a bunch of players who are willing to step up and make plays at any given time. That's what's encouraging. I trust one of our other receivers as much as I trust Julio to make a big play in a third down and long situation."

"I think that's the unity we have as a group after the time spent together both in the offseason and throughout last season. We really have made some good strides."

DEFENSE

Alabama's defense was second best in

the country in total defense, but nine starters either graduated or moved on to the NFL.

Only strong safety Mark Barron and linebacker Dont'a Hightower return as starters, and Hightower only started four games before going down with a devastating knee injury. But while most teams with only two returning starters would be in trouble, Alabama is not. The Crimson Tide could be almost as good as last season.

Terrence Cody is gone in the middle, but Josh Chapman and Luther Davis bring plenty of experience to the field. Chapman played in 13 games and Davis played in all 14.

The defensive ends look strong. Hero of the national championship game Marcell Dareus and Courtney Upshaw both played in every game last season. Dareus put the hit on Texas quarterback Colt McCoy that knocked him out of the



DeMarcus Milliner

Though he is still a little bit raw as a cornerback, Milliner has elite track speed, great size and a natural fluidity in coverage. With the right development, Milliner could become a first-round draft pick at cornerback.



Phillip Sims

Quarterbacks have a way of galvanizing elite classes, and that is certainly the case with Sims. He was one of the most productive and highly touted quarterbacks in the 2010 class. He has tremendous accuracy and a calm confidence as a passer.



Afly Hill

This hybrid defensive lineman could fit perfectly into Alabama's "Jack" position in its 3-4 scheme because of his size and versatility. Hill is explosive off the edge, violent at the point of attack and already has a college-ready body.

2011 NEEDS

Speed and skill were a clear priority for the Tide in 2010. In turn, the line of scrimmage will be the focus in 2011. Defensive tackles and the jumbo 3-4 defensive ends will be the most glaring need. Offensively, one or two true tackles will be crucial. Alabama will also look to add depth to a backfield that will likely lose both Mark Ingram and Trent Richardson to the NFL within the next two years.

Commitments	26
Average Stars	3.62
★★★★★	1
★★★★☆	15
★★★☆☆	9
★★☆☆☆	1
Total Stars	94
National Rank: 5	SEC: 3



Brandon Ivory

Up until about a month before signing day, Ivory was little-known in recruiting circles. After performing well in a post-season all-star game, Ivory caught the eye of some college coaches. Ivory's size and athleticism has already drawn comparisons to former Tide standout Terrence Cody.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Deion Belue	DB	6-0	175	★★★★	Tusculum, AL	Deshler
Rated as the No. 24 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 82 cornerback...Selected to compete in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Chose Alabama over Auburn, UAB and Southern Miss.						
Ronald Carswell	WR	6-0	180	★★★★	Macon, GA	Westside
Rated as the No. 48 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 71 wide receiver...Caught 41 passes for 715 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior and had 34 receptions for 627 yards and three touchdowns as a junior.						
Cade Foster	K	6-1	215	★★★★	Southlake, TX	Carroll
Rated as the nation's No. 10 kicker by Rivals.com...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Chose Alabama over Miami, Washington and Stanford...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
Jalston Fowler	RB	6-0	240	★★★★	Prichard, AL	Vigor
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 3 fullback...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
John Fulton	DB	6-1	180	★★★★	Manning, SC	Manning
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in South Carolina...Rated as the nation's No. 5 cornerback...Had 43 tackles and eight interceptions as a junior...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
Corey Grant	RB	5-10	186	★★★★	Opelika, AL	Opelika
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Alabama...Rated as the nation's No. 5 all-purpose back...Rushed for 812 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior.						
Afly Hill	DE	6-4	222	★★★★	Shallotte, NC	West Brunswick
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in North Carolina...Rated as the nation's No. 8 strongside defensive end...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.						
Adrian Hubbard	DE	6-6	227	★★★★	Norcross, GA	Norcross
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 10 weakside defensive end...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Recorded 102 tackles and 10 sacks as a senior.						
Brandon Ivory	DT	6-3	330	★★★★	Memphis, TN	Memphis East
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 73 defensive tackle...Chose Alabama over Memphis and Southern Miss.						
Harrison Jones	TE	6-4	230	★★★★	Memphis, TN	Evangelical Christian
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 19 tight end...Caught 16 passes for 272 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior.						
Arie Kouandjio	OL	6-6	314	★★★★	Hyattsville, MD	DeMatha
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Maryland...Rated as the nation's No. 15 offensive tackle...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Participated in Maryland Crab Bowl.						
Brandon Lewis	DT	6-3	275	★★★★	Scooba, MS	East Mississippi C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 48 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Had 48 tackles, 7.5 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks in 2009...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
Chad Lindsay	OL	6-3	307	★★★★	The Woodlands, TX	The Woodlands
Rated as the No. 89 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 30 offensive guard...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Wilson Love	DE	6-4	235	★★★★	Birmingham, AL	Mountain Brook
Rated as the No. 30 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 42 strongside defensive end...Had 94 tackles and 12 sacks as a senior.						
Keiwone Malone	WR	6-1	165	★★★★	Memphis, TN	Mitchell
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Tennessee...Rated as the nation's No. 32 wide receiver...Caught 66 passes for 1,378 yards and 26 touchdowns as a senior.						
Dequan Menzie	DB	5-11	200	★★★★	Wesson, MS	Copiah-Lincoln C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 14 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Had 51 tackles and one interception in 2009.						
DeMarcus Milliner	DB	6-2	180	★★★★★	Millbrook, AL	Stanhope Elmore
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Alabama...Rated as the nation's No. 2 cornerback...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Had 71 tackles and three interceptions as a senior after recording seven interceptions and 57 tackles as a junior...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
C.J. Mosley	LB	6-2	212	★★★★	Theodore, AL	Theodore
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Alabama...Rated as the nation's No. 6 outside linebacker...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Finished as the school's all-time leading tackler with more than 500 in his career.						
Nick Perry	DB	6-2	195	★★★★	Prattville, AL	Prattville
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 25 safety...Had 55 tackles and six interceptions as a senior.						
Austin Shepherd	OL	6-5	316	★★★★	Suwanee, GA	North Gwinnett
Rated as the No. 38 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 20 offensive guard...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
Blake Sims	ATH	6-0	180	★★★★	Gainesville, GA	Gainesville
Rated as the No. 26 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 33 athlete...Totaled 3,736 all-purpose yards and 49 total touchdowns as a senior.						
Phillip Sims	QB	6-2	209	★★★★	Chesapeake, VA	Oscar Smith
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Virginia...Rated as the nation's No. 2 pro-style quarterback...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Finished high school career as Virginia's career leader in passing yards (10,725) and touchdown passes (119)...Enrolled at Alabama in January.						
Brian Vogler	TE	6-7	248	★★★★	Columbus, GA	Brookstone School
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 9 tight end...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had 15 receptions for 351 yards and six touchdowns as a senior.						
DeAndrew White	WR	6-0	170	★★★★	Galena Park, TX	North Shore
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Texas...Rated as the nation's No. 7 wide receiver...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Caught 32 passes for 473 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior.						
Jarrick Williams	DB	6-2	205	★★★★	Eight Mile, AL	Blount
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Alabama...Rated as the nation's No. 5 safety...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Recorded 75 tackles as a senior.						
Jay Williams	K	6-4	220	★★★★	Thomasville, AL	Thomasville
Rated as the nation's No. 19 kicker by Rivals.com...Averaged 37.2 yards per punt in 2009 with a long of 62 yards...Chose Alabama over Florida and Houston.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
82	Earl Alexander	WR	6-4	207	Sr.	Phenix City	95	Brandon Lewis	DL	6-3	274	Jr.	Pleasant Grove
19	Jonathan Atchison	LB	6-2	228	Fr.	Atlanta, GA	78	Chad Lindsay	OL	6-2	277	Fr.	The Woodlands, TX
31	John Bailes	LB	6-4	235	Jr.	Hendersonville, TN	72	Tyler Love	OL	6-6	304	So.	Mountain Brook
4	Mark Barron	DB	6-2	210	Jr.	Mobile	29	Will Lowery	DB	5-9	188	Jr.	Hoover
7	Kenny Bell	WR	6-1	172	Fr.	Rayville, LA	17	Tyler Maddox	DB	5-10	191	Jr.	Houston, TX
86	Undra Billingsley	TE	6-2	269	So.	Birmingham	33	Mike Marrow	RB	6-2	235	Fr.	Holland, OH
32	David Blalock	DL	6-5	245	Jr.	Charlotte, NC	4	Marquis Maze	WR	5-10	182	Jr.	Birmingham
93	Chris Bonds	DL	6-4	263	Fr.	Columbia, SC	10	A.J. McCarron	QB	6-4	190	Fr.	Mobile
67	John Michael Boswell	OL	6-5	291	Jr.	Northport	52	Alfred McCullough	OL	6-2	309	Jr.	Athens
88	Michael Bowman	WR	6-4	225	So.	Rossville, GA	12	Greg McElroy	QB	6-3	225	Sr.	Southlake, TX
37	Hardie Buck	WR	5-9	184	So.	Birmingham	28	DeMarcus Milliner	DB	6-1	180	Fr.	Millbrook
87	Drew Bullard	LB	6-3	232	Jr.	Florence	56	William Ming	DL	6-3	263	Jr.	Athens
34	Hunter Bush	DB	5-11	181	So.	Wetumpka	97	Brandon Moore	DL	6-5	305	Fr.	Montgomery
77	James Carpenter	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Augusta, GA	66	Brian Motley	OL	6-3	289	Sr.	Autaville
99	Josh Chapman	DL	6-1	310	Jr.	Hoover	64	Kerry Murphy	DL	6-4	319	So.	Hoover
57	Marcell Darius	DL	6-4	306	Jr.	Birmingham	46	Wesley Neighbors	DB	6-1	205	So.	Huntsville
96	Luther Davis	DL	6-3	279	Sr.	West Monroe, LA	83	Kevin Norwood	WR	6-2	187	Fr.	D'Iberville, MS
23	Craig Dee	RB	5-11	193	So.	Pembroke Pines, FL	18	Morgan Ogilvie	QB	6-0	198	Fr.	Mountain Brook
51	Michael DeJohn	LB	6-1	237	Sr.	Hoover	53	Anthony Orr	DL	6-4	268	Fr.	Madison
85	Preston Dial	TE	6-3	237	Sr.	Mobile	2	Tana Patrick	LB	6-3	231	Fr.	Bridgeport
40	DeMarcus DuBose	LB	6-1	240	Jr.	Montgomery	39	Kyle Pennington	DB	5-11	187	Jr.	Chattom
13	Rob Ezell	WR	5-10	172	Sr.	Athens	68	Taylor Pharr	OL	6-6	285	Sr.	Irondale
76	D.J. Fluker	OL	6-6	340	Fr.	Foley	54	Russell Raines	OL	6-2	265	Fr.	Satsuma
43	Cade Foster	PK	6-1	221	Fr.	Southlake, TX	3	Trent Richardson	RB	5-11	220	So.	Pensacola, FL
45	Jalston Fowler	RB/LB	6-1	236	Fr.	Mobile	74	David Ross	OL	6-3	302	Sr.	Homewood
10	John Fulton	DB	6-0	179	Fr.	Manning, SC	1	B.J. Scott	DB	5-11	193	So.	Prichard
95	Colin Gallagher	PK	5-10	194	Sr.	Atlanta, GA	94	Darrington Sentimore	DL	6-3	261	Fr.	Norco, LA
58	Nick Gentry	DL	6-1	282	Jr.	Prattville	90	Jeremy Shelley	PK	5-10	165	So.	Raleigh, NC
11	Brandon Gibson	WR	6-2	196	Jr.	Mobile	79	Austin Shepherd	OL	6-5	307	Fr.	Buford, GA
6	Demetrius Goode	RB	5-9	220	Jr.	LaGrange, GA	14	Phillip Sims	QB	6-2	214	Fr.	Chesapeake, VA
23	Robby Green	DB	6-0	181	Jr.	New Orleans, LA	71	Allen Skelton	OL	6-1	261	So.	Coker
34	Jeramie Griffin	RB	6-2	232	Jr.	Batesville, MS	17	Brad Smelley	TE	6-3	227	Jr.	Tuscaloosa
15	Darius Hanks	WR	6-0	184	Sr.	Norcross, GA	38	Petey Smith	LB	6-1	250	Fr.	Tampa, FL
54	Glenn Harbin	DL	6-5	260	So.	Mobile	92	Damion Square	DL	6-3	284	So.	Houston, TX
48	Rowdy Harrell	LB	6-0	213	Jr.	Moundville	61	Anthony Steen	OL	6-3	292	Fr.	Lambert, MS
5	Jerrell Harris	LB	6-3	231	Jr.	Gadsden	47	Ed Stinson	LB	6-4	252	Fr.	Homestead, FL
30	Dont'a Hightower	LB	6-4	260	Jr.	Lewisburg, TN	46	William Strickland	WR	6-0	188	Jr.	Tuscaloosa
45	Mark Holt	DB	6-1	172	Sr.	Muscle Shoals	90	Millon Talbert	DL	6-4	271	Sr.	Hattiesburg, MS
21	Ben Howell	RB	5-9	193	So.	Gordo	98	Kolby Taylor	PK	5-9	184	So.	Bessemer
22	Mark Ingram	RB	5-10	215	Jr.	Flint, MI	47	Logan Thomas	WR	6-3	206	Sr.	Houston, TX
2	Star Jackson	QB	6-3	209	So.	Lake Worth, FL	51	Carson Tinker	ST	6-1	220	So.	Murfreesboro, TN
35	Nico Johnson	LB	6-3	238	So.	Andalusia	87	Chris Underwood	TE	6-4	238	Jr.	Vestavia Hills
57	Aaron Joiner	OL	6-2	258	So.	Florence	41	Courtney Upshaw	LB	6-2	263	Jr.	Eufaula
75	Barrett Jones	OL	6-4	301	So.	Memphis, TN	73	William Vlachos	OL	6-1	289	Jr.	Birmingham
8	Julio Jones	WR	6-4	211	Jr.	Foley	65	Chance Warmack	OL	6-3	300	So.	Atlanta, GA
9	Phelon Jones	DB	5-11	199	Jr.	Mobile	91	Alex Watkins	LB	6-3	232	Jr.	Brownsville, TN
36	Chris Jordan	LB	6-3	232	Jr.	Brentwood, TN	55	Chavis Williams	LB	6-4	223	Sr.	Dora
81	Kendall Kelly	WR	6-3	214	Fr.	Gadsden	60	David Williams	OL	6-3	267	So.	Duncanville
10	J.B. Kern	LB	6-1	232	Sr.	Dove Canyon, CA	63	Kellen Williams	OL	6-3	307	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA
21	Dre Kirkpatrick	DB	6-3	190	So.	Gadsden	89	Michael Williams	TE	6-6	270	So.	Reform
42	Eddie Lacy	RB	6-0	212	Fr.	Geismar, LA	9	Nick Williams	WR	5-10	179	Fr.	Fort Lauderdale, FL
37	Robert Lester	DB	6-2	206	So.	Foley	18	Red Woodson	DB	5-11	199	So.	Olive Branch, MS

PASSING

PASSING	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
G. McElroy	14	140.5	198	325	4	60.9	2508	17	80	179.1
S. Jackson	5	126.4	13	18	0	72.2	116	0	21	23.2

RECEIVING

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Jones	13	43	596	13.9	4	73	45.8
M. Ingram	14	32	334	10.4	3	69	23.9
M. Maze	14	31	523	16.9	2	80	37.4

RUSHING

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Ingram	14	271	1678	20	1658	6.1	17	70	118.4
T. Richardson	14	145	784	33	751	5.2	8	52	53.6
R. Upchurch	13	48	313	14	299	6.2	2	34	23.0

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: R. McClain 105, M. Barron 76, J. Arenas 71
 Tackles for loss: R. McClain 14.5, E. Anders 14.5, J. Arenas 12
 Sacks: M. Darius 6.5, E. Anders 6, J. Arenas 5
 Interceptions: M. Barron 7, J. Arenas 5, J. Woodall 3

Alabama only lost one coach this offseason, linebackers coach James Willis. Defensive coordinator **Kirby Smart** was courted by his alma mater, the University of Georgia, where Mark Richt wanted the former Bulldog defensive back and assistant coach to return to Athens and help rebuild Georgia's defense. But Smart decided to stay with **Nick Saban's** staff.

"I just feel like this is where I am supposed to be and this is a special time to be at the University of Alabama," Smart said.

To show its appreciation, Alabama raised Smart's salary to \$750,000 a year. He was not the only Alabama assistant coach to get a raise.

Offensive coordinator **Jim McElwain** was given a raise to \$410,000, while offensive line coach **Joe Pendry** will make \$425,000 this year and \$450,000 next year. Outside linebackers coach **Sal Sunseri** will now make \$350,000. Tight ends and special teams coach **Joe Williams** will make \$305,000 this year and next.

Four other coaches — defensive line coach **Bo Davis**, wide receivers coach **Curt Cignetti**, running back coach **Burton Burns** and director of player development **Willie Martin** — each received the raises that were already stipulated in their contracts.

• One other change on the coaching staff came in January when **Jeremy Pruitt**, a former defensive back at Alabama, was promoted to a full-time assistant defensive coach. He had been the director of player development at Alabama since 2007, a position he took after working as an assistant coach at Hoover (Ala.) High School.

• Perhaps nobody made as big of an impression in the spring game as 6-2, 196-pound junior wide receiver **Brandon Gibson**. He had two receptions in his first two seasons, but in the spring game he caught eight passes for 142 yards, including the game-winning touchdown in overtime. "All I needed was an opportunity," said Gibson.

• **Dont'a Hightower** came through spring drills with no signs of the knee injury he suffered in the Arkansas game last fall. He had one solo tackle and two total stops in the spring game. "Dont'a came back to play a good spring, and his leadership has affected everyone else," said Saban. "We've made a lot of progress as a defensive unit."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• **On the coaching staff:** "Best coached team in the league. I hate to say it because the guy (Nick Saban) is such a jerk. You wonder how they get taught everything they get taught. ... If they ever get a lead, you've got your work cut out because they're not going to mess it up."

• **On the state of the program:** "It's rolling, no pun intended. There were players there (when Saban arrived), which has not been talked about. And he's recruited well on top of that, and he does a great job of coaching. Saban is good at evaluation and player development. NFL evaluation prepares you for it. It's year round. Some people are spending 30 days a year on evaluation. He's spending 330 on evaluation."

Julio Jones

BCS Championship Game, and then he crowned the game with a 28-yard touchdown return of an intercepted pass. Upshaw had 15 tackles and four quarterback hurries in '09.

Rolando McClain is gone from the linebacker corps, but Hightower will assume the role that McClain had in call-

ing the defense. He is healthy and will be joined by Chris Jordan and Jerrell Harris in the starting lineup.

"Defensively, we lost three out of four starters at linebacker, and we lost five or six guys that played a large role in the secondary," Saban said. "A lot of those questions have been answered. Don't a came back to play a good spring, and his leadership has affected everyone else. We've made a lot of progress as a defensive unit."

Barron, a junior, led the SEC with seven interceptions and will be the anchor in the secondary. Sophomore Robert Lester will be the starting free safety, while two other sophomores will man the corner spots — B.J. Scott and Dre Kirkpatrick.

"We lost a lot of good players on defense and you're always looking to try to get your best players on the field in spring practice, get them in the right places and hope that the young players that have an opportunity will have a greater role on the team and develop and improve," Saban said.

"In a lot of cases we had that happen, but we still have some questions and we still have some issues."

The players realize there is work to be done.

"We still have a long way to go, but as a defense we are gelling together, we are really coming together as a whole," Dareus said. "Hightower is getting our defense together and rallying us up. Courtney Upshaw, we all sit and talk and try to get our defense going."

SPECIAL TEAMS

If there is any area of concern, it is the special teams. Four-year starters Leigh Tiffin and P.J. Fitzgerald are gone, leaving that area wide open. Two early enrollees from the 2010 signing class could fill those roles.

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Mark Ingram

Ingram will take the field this fall with a huge target on his back after winning Alabama's first Heisman Trophy as a sophomore. ... He rushed for 1,658 yards and 17 touchdowns. Ingram caught 32 passes for 334 yards and three more scores. ... Against South Carolina, Ingram rushed for 246 yards, a Bryant-Denny Stadium record, on 24 carries while averaging 10.2 yards per carry.



EMERGING STAR

DE Marcell Dareus

Came into his own in the national championship game in which he intercepted a Texas pass and returned it 28 yards for a score just before the half ended to give Alabama a 24-6 lead. ... Earlier, his tackle on Texas' Colt McCoy knocked the quarterback out of the game. ... Had nine tackles for loss, including 6.5 sacks for 44 yards in losses, while compiling 33 tackles overall last season.



TOP NEWCOMER

DB DeMarcus Milliner

Milliner, 6-1, 180 pounds, is one of the top prospects at any position in the class of 2010. ... A *Parade* Magazine All-American. ... Made 71 tackles as a senior in 2009 while intercepting three passes and breaking up eight passes as opposing offenses chose to throw away from the talented defensive back. ... With Alabama returning only one starter in the secondary, he could see plenty of playing time early.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	27.1	64
Rushing	149.2	60
Passing	224.5	59
Total	373.7	75

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.0	27
Rushing	124.2	28
Passing	221.3	48
Total	345.6	31

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+4	+0.31	34

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	30.1	35
Rushing	184.6	31
Passing	171.1	97
Total	355.8	63

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	14.3	7
Rushing	74.1	3
Passing	189.4	30
Total	263.5	3

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+6	+0.43	33

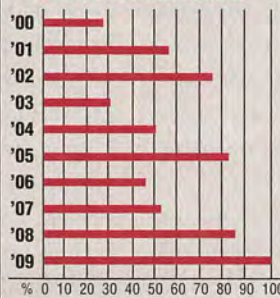
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	32.1	22
Rushing	215.1	12
Passing	188.0	92
Total	403.0	42

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	11.8	2
Rushing	78.1	2
Passing	166.0	10
Total	244.1	2

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+19	+1.36	4

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

14-0, 8-0

W	vs. Virginia Tech	34-24
W	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	40-14
W	NORTH TEXAS	53-7
W	ARKANSAS	35-7
W	at Kentucky	38-20
W	at Ole Miss	22-3
W	SOUTH CAROLINA	20-6
W	TENNESSEE (OT)	12-10
W	LSU	24-15
W	at Mississippi State	31-3
W	TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA	45-0
W	at Auburn	26-21
SEC Championship Game		
W	vs. Florida	32-13
BCS National Championship Game		
W	vs. Texas	37-21

Player Profile



Photo by R.D. Moore

Marcell Dareus

Dareus: A Highlight Waiting to Happen

There's nothing like making a spectacular play in a national championship game before millions of people to change your life.

That's what defensive end Marcell Dareus did against Texas in Alabama's 37-21 victory that gave Alabama its 13th national championship. Actually, he made two momentum-changing plays that turned the game.

The first came early when he hit quarterback Colt McCoy and knocked him out of the game. The second came just seconds before the end of the first half when he

intercepted a Garrett Gilbert shovel pass and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown, which gave Alabama a 24-6 halftime lead.

"It seemed like it was fast to everybody else, but to me everything was moving so slow," said Dareus.

"When the ball was in air, I was just thinking about catching it. It seemed like everything just paused. My eyes, my mind, everything was focused on catching it. When I did, the quarterback hit me and I thought 'I ain't going down.' I threw him off and kept going."

Along the way he made an unforgettable spin move.

"I have no idea where that came from," he said. "My teammates called it a pirouette. They said it was the slowest spin move ever."

Although the game brought Dareus into the forefront of the college football world, it hasn't changed the affable young man from Birmingham's Huffman High School.

"I haven't changed," he said. "Maybe people notice me a little bit more when I go out. But I don't go out much, so not too much has changed."

But things have changed on the field for the 6-4, 306-pound junior.

As a backup last season, Dareus logged 33 tackles, including nine for loss and 6.5 sacks. He also had seven quarterback hurries. This fall he will be at the front of the line as one of the main cogs on a defense that lost nine starters.

"It gives me a sense of accomplishment that the players and coaches look to me as a leader," Dareus said.

"I am not scared of that. You want to always do your best. The defense is looking pretty good, but we have a lot of work to do. Going against our offense every day makes us better. ...

"As a team, we don't think about defending the national championship, but if it comes we'll be ready," he said. "It runs through your mind every now and then, but we want an identity of our own."

Cade Foster has a strong leg and made 38 of 48 field-goal attempts in high school; he likely will be the kickoff specialist as well. Jay Williams looks to take over the punting duties.

Julio Jones is the only player who had any punt-return yardage last season, while Trent Richardson and Jones are the top two kick returners back.

"I think we have two good enough kickers between their accuracy, the leg strength of one guy and the accuracy of the other," said Saban.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The road to a repeat championship will not be an easy one. After a breather for an opener, Alabama plays host to Penn State in an early-season matchup of two of the nation's top teams. Then comes Duke, coached by ex-Crimson Tide player David Cutcliffe.

The Tide then jumps into a conference schedule that has road trips to Arkansas, South Carolina, Tennessee and LSU. The home schedule is no less challenging with Florida, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and Auburn coming to the newly expanded Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Seven of Alabama's eight SEC foes went to bowl games last season, including all four of the teams the Tide will face on the road.

Former Alabama coach Bill Curry will bring his Georgia State team to Bryant-Denny on Nov. 20.

— Ben Cook

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	SAN JOSE STATE	2-10
Sept. 11	PENN STATE	11-2
Sept. 18	at Duke	5-7
Sept. 25	at Arkansas	8-5
Oct. 2	FLORIDA	13-1
Oct. 9	at South Carolina	7-6
Oct. 16	OLE MISS	9-4
Oct. 23	at Tennessee	7-6
Nov. 6	at LSU	9-4
Nov. 13	MISSISSIPPI STATE	5-7
Nov. 20	GEORGIA STATE	0-0
Nov. 26	AUBURN	8-5

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RAZORBACKS

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OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Garrick McGee

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Willy Robinson

STADIUM: Reynolds Razorback Stadium: 72,000

AT A GLANCE

2009

8-5, 3-5 SEC (T-4th West)

COACH

Bobby Petrino — At Arkansas: 13-12,
2 years; overall: 54-21, 6 years

RETURNING STARTERS

18; 9 offense, 7 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Ryan Mallett, TE D.J. Williams,
WR Jarius Wright, WR Joe Adams,
WR Greg Childs, RB Dennis Johnson,
OT DeMarcus Love, DE Jake Bequette

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Arkansas has an explosive, versatile offense aiming to run a little more to utilize four good running backs and augment Mallett's arm and deep receiving corps.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Defense looks better but still must prove it, especially against the big play and especially in the secondary. Special teams, other than KR Dennis Johnson, are highly suspect. Freshmen could be punting and place-kicking.

KEY LOSSES

OG Mitch Petrus, DT Malcolm Sheppard,
RB Michael Smith

OVERVIEW

This, by far, appears to be the best team in Bobby Petrino's three Arkansas years. The offense could soar, but defense and the kicking game still wins championships in the SEC. Games 3 and 4 versus Georgia and Alabama, Arkansas' first SEC games, will determine if these Hogs launch a flying start or face their customary Operation Regroup by mid-October.

Razorbacks Still Have the O, Looking for a Lot More D

Defense wins championships. Arkansas fans now fully realize that in ways they haven't since defense made the Razorbacks nationally significant four and five decades ago under coaches Frank Broyles and Lou Holtz.

Many Arkansas fans yearned for more passing, even as the Houston Nutt era closed in 2006 and 2007 with All-Americans Darren McFadden and Felix Jones running for record yardage.

They welcomed, and still welcome, coach Bobby Petrino bringing a record-setting passing offense to Arkansas in 2008 and 2009. They applaud knowing more is to come from quarterback Ryan Mallett in 2010.

However, with no SEC overall championship to show for all that running and passing, it has dawned upon Arkansas to get defensive and follow the path that Alabama took to the national championship.

Even with Heisman Trophy winning running back Mark Ingram, Alabama's championship season came, first and foremost, because the Tide boasted a defense that could stop any threat by land or air.

This year, the very offensive-minded Petrino recruited his first defensively oriented Arkansas class.

And for the first time in a long time — maybe ever — fans attending Arkansas' open spring scrimmages cheered defensive big plays as loud or louder than they cheered long touchdown bombs.

The Razorbacks on defense took note.

"I always thought they came to cheer for the offense, but when we make some big plays, they have been cheering for us," junior defensive tackle Zach Stadther said. "It gives you a little extra motivation."

Junior safety Elton Ford appreciated the difference.

"That's nice," Ford said. "Offense has always been the thing, so it's kind of nice for fans to recognize the defense."

It's a whole lot nicer than being called the team's "weak link," Stadther and junior safety Tramain Thomas remarked, even after defense was primarily responsible for Arkansas' Liberty Bowl overtime victory over East Carolina.

Those extra bowl practices last December were a launching pad, defensive coordinator Willy Robinson said, for a defense that improved vastly in the latter part of spring drills.

"We did a really good job of flying around and making plays," Robinson said of the last scrimmage leading into the spring game. "You are seeing a lot of carryover with our young guys from the bowl practices."

OFFENSE

Combine one of the most acknowledged offensive coaching minds in the country with perhaps the best NFL quarterback prospect, and you have an Arkansas offense expected to do great things.

Especially since Petrino and fourth-year junior quarterback Ryan Mallett have a lot more to work with than just each other.

From Arkansas' best-ever passing attack of last season, top wide receivers Joe Adams, Jarius Wright, Greg Childs and Cobi Hamilton and 2008 Mackey Award semifinalist D.J. Williams all return.

Chris Gragg, who redshirted as an injured sophomore last year, brings his 4.4 wide receiver speed to complement Williams at tight end.

Arkansas' top four running backs — Dennis Johnson, Broderick Green, Ronnie Wingo and Knile Davis — are all explosive in different ways.

Arkansas' best offensive lineman of 2009, senior guard Mitch Petrus, graduated. But the rest of the best of the line returns, plus a redshirt freshman moved ahead of an injured senior incumbent in spring drills.

It should be a compelling battle in



D.J. Williams Photo by John Williamson

Knile Davis

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Ryan Mallett*	Jr.	One of the nation's top gunslingers.	Tyler Wilson, So.
RB	Dennis Johnson	Jr.	Most versatile runner of team's top four backs.	Ronnie Wingo, So.
RB	Broderick Green	Jr.	Had 11 touchdowns as a goal-line specialist.	Knile Davis, So.
WR	Joe Adams*	Jr.	Career 19.6 avg. per catch; open-field nightmare.	Greg Childs, Jr.*
WR	Jarius Wright*	Jr.	Another guy who can also be deadly deep.	Cobi Hamilton, So.
TE	D.J. Williams*	Sr.	Catches, blocks, leads; 2nd-team all-league in '09.	Chris Gragg, So.
LT	DeMarcus Love*	Sr.	Line leader who has made 24 career starts.	Grant Freeman, Jr.
LG	Grant Cook	Jr.	Started three games in 2009, including vs. Bama.	Zhamal Thomas, Sr.
C	Seth Oxner*	Jr.	Solid center who started every game last season.	Travis Swanson, Fr.
RG	Alvin Bailey	Fr.	Redshirt is ready to make an impact.	Wade Grayson, Sr.*
RT	Ray Dominguez*	Sr.	Senior brings much experience to the position.	Anthony Oden, So.
K	Alex Tejada*	Sr.	Had a shaky spring after shaky '09.	Eduardo Camara, Fr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Jake Bequette*	Jr.	Dependable player who had 5.5 sacks last season.	Damario Ambrose, Sr.
DT	Zach Stadther*	Jr.	These two players are in a close battle after spring.	Lavunce Askew, Jr.
DT	Patrick Jones	Sr.	Journeyman in lead; both Jones will play.	DeQuinta Jones, So.
DE	Tenarius Wright	So.	Rehabbed foot injury in the spring.	Caleb Evans, Sr.
LB	Jerico Nelson*	Jr.	Big-play hybrid S/LB; good on special teams.	Bret Harris, Jr.
LB	Jermaine Love	Sr.	Has opportunity and must step up in middle.	Terrell Williams, So.
LB	Jerry Franklin*	Jr.	Team's top LB spent part of offseason in doghouse.	Freddy Burton, Sr.
CB	Darius Winston	So.	This spot will be further contested in fall.	Isaac Madison, Jr.
CB	Ramon Broadway*	Sr.	Veteran player had 55 tackles last season.	David Gordon, So.
SS	Tramain Thomas*	Jr.	With INT for TD, was Liberty Bowl MVP on D.	Elton Ford, Jr.
FS	Rudell Crim*	Sr.	Moved from cornerback late in spring ball.	Anthony Leon, Sr.
P	Dylan Breeding*	So.	Averaged 38.7 yards and is fighting for job.	Zach Hocker, Fr.

*Returning Starter

the August preseason with 2009 starting guard Wade Grayson healthy again from his early spring practice knee injury and redshirt freshman Alvin Bailey soaring off the first-team momentum he seized in Grayson's absence.

Meanwhile, center Seth Oxner, guard Grant Cook and senior tackles DeMarcus Love and Ray Dominguez, all veterans, are compelled to do more than hold serve.

"With our starters and experience coming back," Petrino said, "our expectations are higher."

That goes for backups, too.

Mallett missed spring drills with a broken foot, but said he was nearly fully fit by the end of April. That meant extended spring time for third-year sophomore Tyler Wilson, whom Petrino expects to be a quality first-teamer on a moment's notice should injury befall Mallett again.

It was Wilson's first team to operate in the spring while Mallett joined Petrino and offensive coordinator/quarterbacks

coach Garrick McGee advising and observing the young quarterbacks.

There was plenty to observe with new offensive line coach Chris Klenakis incorporating the Pistol offense into Petrino's attack. Klenakis knows the system well as the former offensive coordinator at the University of Nevada.

Nevada led the nation in rushing in 2009 (344.9 yards per game), was second nationally in total offense (505.6 yards per game) and sixth in scoring (38.2 points per game).

With Mallett, the Hogs had the passing down pat in 2009, but Petrino wants the running game better utilized to complement the passing and take some ball control pressure off the defense.

The Pistol, which Petrino said he used some last year mainly to pass, could give the running game its best shot.

"We were really good throwing out of it last year," Petrino said. "I feel if we can add the run game to it, it will help us a lot."

DEFENSE

Arkansas' defense turned over a new leaf in 2009.

The Hogs had 30 takeaways in their 8-5 2009 season, up from just 15 takeaways in 2008. But they gave up too many big plays to suit Petrino and defensive coordinator Willy Robinson.

The defense couldn't get the key stops required to propel the Hogs over No. 1 Florida in a 23-20 road loss, or in a 33-30 overtime loss to LSU.

"We did improve a lot from the first year to the second year in getting guys to the ball and gang-tackling," Petrino said. "But we still have got to do better in the open spaces. We have to stop the big play. There were times we played really good defense and all of a sudden we let up for an 80-yard go route for a touchdown."

Because Petrino's offenses tend to spring big plays against most everyone, spring practice might not have been a good way to determine if this defense has cut down on



Byron Jones

Though fellow defensive tackle Calvin Barnett was more highly rated, Jones was an absolute must-get for the Razorbacks as an elite in-state target. Jones played small-school football in high school and doesn't have ideal height, but he has a motor and intensity that you can't teach.



Calvin Barnett

He needs to add more "good" weight, but Barnett has a chance to be special as a big, athletic space-eater inside. He moves much better than should be allowed for a player of his size. He put together a surprisingly dominating performance during the week of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.



Cam Feldt

With the line of scrimmage being a priority in the 2010 class, Cam Feldt was a big pickup in more ways than one. The 6-5, 290-pounder has a great body and was widely regarded as one of the top offensive tackle recruits in the nation. As a big-name Texas prospect, he represents an area that Arkansas has to recruit well to be successful.

2011 NEEDS

For Arkansas, the priority starts at the quarterback position. They hope to sign two quality players, and they would love for those players to be Brandon Allen and Kiehl Frazier — two in-state talents. They will try to sign a big running back and will look to capitalize on a good year in-state for offensive linemen.

Commitments	25
Average Stars	2.96
★★★★★	0
★★★★☆	3
★★★☆☆	18
★★★☆☆	4
Total Stars	74
National Rank: 49	SEC: 10



Jacoby Walker

He's not a polished passer and he's not a freak athlete, but Walker is productive. He put up big numbers in the air and on the ground as a senior. He always seems to find a way to get the job done. With some time to develop under Bobby Petrino, he could grow into a Texas-sized steal.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Calvin Barnett	DT	6-3	330	★★★★★	Tulsa, OK	Booker T. Washington
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Oklahoma...Rated as the nation's No. 13 defensive tackle...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Recorded 33 tackles and four sacks as a senior.						
Jatashun Beachum	ATH	6-2	275	★★★★	Dallas, TX	A Maceo Smith
Rated as the No. 64 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 44 athlete...Recruited by various schools to play running back, quarterback, defensive tackle or tight end...Completed 38-of-72 passes for 539 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior.						
Eric Bennett	ATH	5-10	176	★★★★	Tulsa, OK	Booker T. Washington
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 49 athlete...Completed 54-of-96 passes for 873 yards and nine touchdowns and carried the ball 100 times for 581 yards and five touchdowns as a senior.						
LaCraig Brown	DT	6-4	261	★★★★	Monroe, LA	Richwood
Rated as the No. 36 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Recorded 51 tackles, nine sacks and 12 tackles for loss as a senior.						
Eduardo Camara	K	5-8	155	★★★	Cedar Hill, TX	Cedar Hill
Rated as the nation's No. 14 kicker by Rivals.com...Connected on 50 PATs and 15 field goals with a long of 49 yards in 2009.						
Daunte Carr	DB	6-3	205	★★★★	Gainesville, GA	Gainesville High School
Rated as the No. 71 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 61 safety...Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Game...Recorded 104 tackles and three interceptions as a senior.						
Luke Charpentier	OL	6-4	305	★★★★	River Ridge, LA	John Curtis
Rated as the No. 12 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 50 offensive tackle...Helped lead team to Class 2A state championship in 2008 and runner-up finish in 2009.						
Cam Feldt	OL	6-5	290	★★★★★	Pilot Point, TX	Pilot Point Seiz
Rated as the No. 38 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 28 offensive tackle...Helped lead team to a state championship and 15-0 record in 2009.						
Courtney Gaston	LB	6-3	205	★★★★	Fort Gibson, OK	Fort Gibson
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 40 outside linebacker...Recorded 75 tackles, 24 tackles for loss and 14 sacks as a senior...Averaged a double-double on the basketball court.						
Brad Hefley	ATH	6-5	255	★★★★	Joplin, MO	Joplin
Rated as the No. 15 prospect in Missouri by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 86 athlete...Had 140 tackles and 22 tackles for loss at Riverton High School in Kansas in 2008.						
Javontee Herndon	WR	6-1	170	★★★	Jacksonville, FL	Bolles
Helped The Bolles School win its 10th state championship in 2009...Had 23 catches for 552 yards and nine touchdowns in 2008.						
Zach Hocker	K	5-11	165	★★★	Russellville, AR	Russellville
Selected to play in the Arkansas High School Coaches Association East-West Shrine game...Kicked a school-record 15 field goals in 2009.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Julian Horton	ATH	6-1	182	★★★★	Norcross, GA	Greater Atlanta Christian
Rated as the No. 61 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 76 athlete...Had 133 receptions for almost 2,400 yards and 18 touchdowns in his high school career.						
Maudrecus Humphrey	WR	6-2	185	★★★★	Hoover, AL	Hoover
Rated as the No. 34 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 85 wide receiver...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Son of former Alabama and NFL running back Bobby Humphrey.						
Jeremiah Jackson	DT	6-2	265	★★★★	Hoover, AL	Spain Park
Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 45 defensive tackle...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Recorded 82 tackles and seven sacks as a senior.						
Byron Jones	DT	6-3	297	★★★★★	Junction City, AR	Junction City
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Arkansas...Rated as the nation's No. 19 defensive tackle...Had 97 tackles and 25 tackles for loss as a senior.						
Jarrett Lake	ATH	6-2	205	★★★★	Jenks, OK	Jenks
Rated as the No. 23 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com...Caught 21 passes for 483 yards and five touchdowns in 2009.						
Brayton Mitchell	ATH	6-2	208	★★★★	Heber Springs, AR	Heber Springs
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com...Rushed for 1,691 yards and 26 touchdowns while recording 91 tackles on defense in 2009.						
Denton Simek	OL	6-6	260	★★★★	Prague, OK	Prague
Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Oklahoma by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 66 offensive tackle...Chose Arkansas over Arizona, Texas Tech, TCU, Missouri, Nebraska and Baylor.						
Chris Smith	DE	6-2	230	★★★★	Mount Ulla, NC	West Rowan
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in North Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 24 weakside defensive end...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas...Helped lead his team to a 16-0 record and Class 3A state championship earning MVP honors in the title game.						
Darrell Smith	DB	6-2	185	★★★★	Port Saint Joe, FL	Port Saint Joe
Rated as the nation's No. 80 safety by Rivals.com...Had 94 solo tackles and 45 assisted tackles as a senior.						
Alan Turner	ATH	5-11	181	★★★	Junction City, AR	Junction City
Had 67 tackles and eight interceptions as a senior...Selected to play in the Arkansas High School Coaches Association East-West Shrine game.						
Garrett Uekman	TE	6-4	235	★★★★	Little Rock, AR	Catholic
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 23 tight end...Caught 56 passes for 600 yards and six touchdowns in 2009.						
Marquel Wade	WR	5-11	180	★★★★	Jacksonville, FL	Andrew Jackson
Rated as the No. 73 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 65 wide receiver...Had 53 receptions for 769 yards and nine touchdowns in 2009.						
Jacoby Walker	QB	6-2	210	★★★★	Spring, TX	Westfield
Rated as the nation's No. 33 dual-threat quarterback by Rivals.com...Completed 147-of-235 passes for 2,352 yards and 25 touchdowns as a senior...Enrolled at Arkansas in January.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
3	Joe Adams	WR	5-11	182	Jr.	Little Rock	92	DeQuinta Jones	DT	6-5	307	So.	Bastrop, LA
58	Damario Ambrose	DE	6-5	270	Sr.	Mobile, AL	95	Patrick Jones	DT	6-1	309	Sr.	Hampton, GA
13	Seth Armbrust	S	5-9	190	Sr.	Little Rock	1	Anthony Leon	S	6-4	227	Sr.	Miami, FL
99	Lavunce Askwew	DT	6-3	290	Jr.	Camden	65	DeMarcus Love	OT	6-5	315	Sr.	Lancaster, TX
67	Alvin Bailey	OG	6-5	323	Fr.	Broken Arrow, OK	53	Jermaine Love	LB	5-11	230	Sr.	Garland, TX
30	Mitchell Bailey	FB	5-11	227	Jr.	Broken Bow, OK	6	Isaac Madison	CB	5-11	185	Jr.	Dallas, TX
83	Neal Barlow	WR	6-6	200	Fr.	Little Rock	15	Ryan Mallett	QB	6-7	238	Jr.	Texarkana
50	Stephen Barnett	LB	6-1	227	Sr.	Siloam Springs	47	Matt Marshall	LB	6-1	230	So.	Camden, NJ
68	Clay Bemberg	C	6-2	295	Sr.	Little Rock	16	Hunter Miller	DB	6-1	200	So.	Sherwood
91	Jake Bequette	DE	6-5	271	Jr.	Little Rock	17	Brandon Mitchell	QB	6-4	230	Fr.	Amite, LA
54	Colby Berna	OL	6-5	293	Fr.	Fayetteville	38	Jerry Mitchell	S	6-7	214	Fr.	Mandeville, LA
14	Dylan Breeding	P	6-1	211	So.	Helena, AL	55	Austin Moss	LB	6-3	227	So.	Rockwall, TX
62	Nick Brewer	SN	6-1	221	Jr.	Austin, TX	30	Thomas Moss	CB	5-9	185	Jr.	Granite Bay, CA
26	Ramon Broadway	CB	5-9	191	Sr.	Shreveport, LA	16	Chris Muncie	WR	6-5	185	So.	El Paso, TX
37	Cameron Bryan	K	5-10	176	So.	Oklahoma City, OK	90	Colton Nash	DE	6-6	261	So.	Sulphur Springs, TX
46	Freddy Burton	LB	6-2	238	Sr.	Morrilton	31	Jerico Nelson	S/LB	5-10	205	Jr.	Destrehan, LA
19	Dustin Cain	S	6-0	190	Sr.	Coppell, TX	90	Alex Nerney	WR	6-2	210	Jr.	Grapevine, TX
97	Ryan Calender	DE	6-7	241	Fr.	Caddo Mills, TX	78	Anthony Oden	OT	6-8	328	So.	Indianapolis, IN
28	Alvin Chambers	WR	6-1	192	So.	Florissant, MO	60	Seth Oxner	C	6-4	315	Jr.	Monticello
85	Greg Childs	WR	6-3	217	Jr.	Warren	63	Adam Pearce	DT	6-2	256	So.	Little Rock
86	Ben Cleveland	TE	6-4	256	Sr.	Springdale	10	Nick Petrino	QB	5-11	190	Jr.	Louisville, KY
25	Kyle Coleman	WR	6-0	195	Fr.	Checotah, OK	41	Ryan Powers	LB	6-1	223	Sr.	Athens, AL
94	Will Coleman	DE	6-2	247	Fr.	Helena	26	Brandon Pyle	FB	6-2	240	So.	Hallsville, TX
72	Grant Cook	OG	6-4	322	Jr.	Jonesboro	35	Ross Rasner	S	6-0	205	So.	Waco, TX
50	Robert Cox	SN	6-2	204	So.	Bearden	82	Lance Ray	WR	6-3	207	Fr.	Havana, FL
4	Rudell Crim	CB	6-0	190	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL	93	Brooks Reimer	DE	6-3	265	Fr.	Springdale
23	De'Anthony Curtis	WR	5-9	215	Jr.	Camden	99	Rhett Richardson	SN	6-0	214	Sr.	Rockwall, TX
51	Alfred Davis	DT	6-1	326	So.	College Park, GA	19	Carlton Salters	WR	5-11	205	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL
39	Jovan Davis	TE	6-2	250	So.	Plano, TX	21	William Serrano	WR	6-0	200	So.	Nashville
7	Knile Davis	RB	6-0	216	So.	Missouri City, TX	61	Zach Stadther	DT	6-1	295	Jr.	North Little Rock
76	Tyler Deacon	OT	6-2	295	So.	Little Rock	36	Andru Stewart	CB	6-0	200	Sr.	Bakersfield, CA
73	Ray Dominguez	OT	6-4	329	Sr.	Bainbridge, GA	44	Van Stumon	FB	6-1	266	Sr.	North Little Rock
98	Caleb Evans	DE	6-4	254	Sr.	Custer, MT	64	Travis Swanson	C	6-5	305	Fr.	Kingwood, TX
88	Ryan Farr	WR	6-1	190	So.	Little Rock	87	Austin Tate	TE	6-6	246	Fr.	Harrison
9	Elton Ford	S	6-0	215	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA	2	Alex Tejada	K	6-0	205	Sr.	Springdale
34	Jerry Franklin	LB	6-1	241	Jr.	Marion	5	Tramain Thomas	S	6-0	187	Jr.	Winnie, TX
79	Grant Freeman	OT	6-7	298	Jr.	Paris	70	Zhamal Thomas	OG	6-5	343	Sr.	New Iberia, LA
28	Greg Gatson	CB	5-10	175	Jr.	Memphis, TN	24	Brandon Tierney	K	5-11	185	So.	Arlington, TX
22	David Gordon	DB	6-0	180	So.	Tulsa, OK	89	Austin Tucker	WR	6-1	195	Jr.	Springdale
42	Garry Grace	RB	6-1	226	So.	Alpharetta, GA	40	Michael Villegas	LB	6-4	230	So.	Springdale
80	Chris Gragg	TE	6-3	236	So.	Warren	18	Jacoby Walker	QB	6-2	212	Fr.	Houston, TX
71	Wade Grayson	OG	6-4	302	Sr.	Harrison	81	Nick Walters	P	6-3	213	Jr.	Edmond, OK
29	Broderick Green	RB	6-2	248	Jr.	Little Rock	35	Ronald Watkins	RB	5-9	185	So.	Stafford, VA
96	Jared Green	DT	6-0	303	Jr.	Little Rock	49	Ryan Wilbourn	P	5-10	160	Jr.	Searcy
22	Telvin Griffin	WR	6-0	178	So.	Texarkana	45	D.J. Williams	TE	6-2	251	Sr.	Little Rock
58	Blake Gunderson	OL	6-3	290	So.	Rockwall, TX	25	Terrell Williams	LB	6-3	237	So.	Tulsa, OK
11	Cobi Hamilton	WR	6-3	209	So.	Texarkana, TX	8	Tyler Wilson	QB	6-3	215	So.	Greenwood
32	Bret Harris	LB	6-0	228	Jr.	Irving, TX	20	Ronnie Wingo, Jr.	RB	6-3	227	So.	St. Louis, MO
53	Derrell Hartwick	SN	5-9	168	Jr.	North Little Rock	21	Darius Winston	CB	6-0	185	So.	West Helena
84	Price Holmes	WR	6-3	190	So.	Batesville	27	Justin Wortman	WR	5-9	170	So.	Cabot
69	David Hurd	OL	6-6	305	So.	West Monroe, LA	4	Jarius Wright	WR	5-10	180	Jr.	Warren
33	Dennis Johnson	RB	5-9	213	Jr.	Texarkana	43	Tenarius Wright	DE	6-1	241	So.	Memphis, TN
							14	Jim Youngblood	TE	6-2	225	So.	Camden

Arkansas coach **Bobby Petrino**, in his third spring, for the first time deemed his team deep enough to be divided into squads for the annual Red-White intrasquad game, instead of first units vs. second units.

"We have a lot more players than we have had since we have been here," offensive coordinator **Garrick McGee** said. "You always want to add depth, but we are pleased where we are."

• Junior **De'Anthony Curtis** spent two years mired behind four running backs. He was talented but was mostly a spare part.

Now he's a wideout listed behind four receivers, but this numbers game adds up to more time on the field, Curtis said.

"There may be just one running back on the field," Curtis said, "but we may have, three, four or five receivers on the field. It gave me a little more opportunity. The door opened up and I am just trying to take it."

• These days it's hard to keep up with the Joneses, especially one particular Jones.

With defensive tackle **D.D. Jones**, it's hard to know if down is up or up is down. He was told to lose weight from the instant he signed two Februarys ago as he exceeded 300 pounds. But now, the 6-5 sophomore is being told put it back on.

"He's losing some of that baby fat," defensive line coach **Bobby Allen** said. "Now it's a matter of him getting in that weight room and putting it back on as bulk and strength. In this league, we need him to run like he does but still be up there at 300 pounds."

• **Jerico Nelson** only stands a generously listed 5-10, but no Razorback stands taller with special teams coordinator/outside linebackers coach **John L. Smith** than his hybrid safety/linebacker/special-teamer.

"He's grown up as a short guy playing a taller guy's sport," Smith said. "So every day I think he goes out there saying, 'I am going to prove myself today.' I love being around that kid."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• **On the team's development:** "Arkansas has done a really good job of developing a passing game in a short time. They turned that offense around in two years, from being a predominant run team to throwing like they throw it. They throw well enough to score from anywhere."

• **On Bobby Petrino:** "The guy knows what he's doing on offense. His scheme is proven. Some of the things he got done at Louisville I thought were because he out-recruited everybody. That's not the case. The guy is a good football coach."

• **On the Hogs' ability to get enough defensive players:** "That's a challenge. I think he (Petrino) can. He probably has a similar mentality to (Steve) Spurrier. The difference is, when Spurrier was at Florida, he had enough defensive talent close by and that made it easier to recruit."

PASSING

Name	G	Effic	Comp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	Td	Lg	Avg/G
R. Mallett	13	152.46	225	403	7	55.8	3624	30	83	278.8
T. Wilson	5	119.20	22	36	2	61.1	218	2	21	43.6

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds	Avg	Td	Lg	Avg/G
G. Childs	13	48	894	18.6	7	75	68.8
J. Wright	13	41	681	16.6	5	58	52.4
D.J. Williams	13	32	411	12.8	3	69	31.6

RUSHING

Name	G	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	Td	Lg	Avg/G
B. Green	13	104	459	17	442	4.2	11	99	34.0
M. Smith	8	71	413	17	396	5.6	2	33	49.5
D. Johnson	13	57	369	27	342	6.0	0	46	26.3

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: J. Franklin 94, W. Davis 79, J. Nelson 74
Tackles for loss: M. Sheppard 11, A. Davis 10.5, J. Bequette 9
Sacks: A. Davis 5.5, J. Bequette 5.5, three with 2.5
Interceptions: J. Franklin 3, T. Thomas 3, J. Norton 2

Ronnie Wingo

allowing the big play. However, there was little doubt the defense increasingly asserted itself down the spring practice stretch.

"We were definitely more efficient," Robinson said.

Arkansas will be more efficient — and sometimes spectacular — with junior end Jake Bequette's pass rush. Arkansas is solid down the line, with veteran Tenarius Wright at the other end and tackles Zach Stadther, Lavunce Askew, Patrick Jones and D.D. Jones filling the gaps in between.

Spring ball began with Arkansas' best linebacker, leading returning tackler Jerry Franklin, not practicing because the coaches said he didn't make prescribed conditioning improvement. By the spring's close, he was back to first-team ready at either inside 'backer spot.

The defense hit hard enough for Robinson to gamble on speed over size in spring ball's final week. He moved senior starting cornerback Rudell Crim to safety and promoted former five-star recruit Darius Winston, a sophomore, to first-team field corner.

"You obviously saw more speed on the field," Robinson said.

Tramain Thomas, the Defensive MVP of Arkansas' Liberty Bowl victory over East Carolina with a 37-yard interception return for a touchdown, plus nine tackles, is at free safety.

Other players who figure at safety are Elton Ford, the starting free safety in 2008 and an eight-game starter either at free or strong safety in 2009, and Anthony Leon, a highly touted junior college transfer in 2009.

At corner, Isaac Madison, a 2008 starter who missed last season with a torn ACL, should help as an extra back against spread offenses and in the regular corner rotation.

Sophomore Ross Rasner, rising to second-team strong safety midway through spring drills before being supplanted by Thomas, also could be counted upon.

Sophomore David Gordon, so fast he was co-recruited by the Razorbacks track team as a sprinter, will figure at cornerback if he recovers from last year's major late-season foot injury that sidelined him for spring football and 2010 indoor and outdoor track.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Petrino has a promise: "We will be better on punt returns."

That shouldn't be hard to do.

Arkansas averaged a mere 8.5 yards per

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

QB Ryan Mallett

Even the new coaches who haven't watched him practice know quarterback Ryan Mallett is Arkansas' MVP. ... Just watching the players react to Mallett throwing on the side at spring practice with his broken foot in a walking boot, new offensive line coach Chris Klenakis said, "Ryan Mallett is the leader of this team." ... He casts a personality even bigger than his 6-7 frame and he has a big arm that led the SEC in TD passes (30) and passing yards per game (278.8). ... Had two games with more than 400 passing yards.



EMERGING STAR

DE Jake Bequette

On an Arkansas team loaded with offensive stars, don't be surprised to see Bequette honored on several All-SEC defensive teams. ... The junior is big (6-5, 271), fast, smart (already a grad petitioning for law school) and even sacked Tim Tebow twice last season. ... "On our defense," Arkansas defensive coordinator Willy Robinson said, "Jake has the most pro potential, size and speed."



TOP NEWCOMER

OL Alvin Bailey

Usually a senior starter missing spring practice with injuries can assume he'll get first-team consideration come the August preseason. Senior Wade Grayson might not. Redshirt freshman Alvin Bailey (6-5, 323) played that well as Grayson's guard replacement when the senior starter went down in the spring with an injured knee. ... New line coach Chris Klenakis said Bailey was treated like a starter not an understudy. "First thing we did was run behind him," Klenakis said. "He did well."



2007 RANKINGS			2008 RANKINGS			2009 RANKINGS			10-YEAR WINNING TREND		RESULTS					
OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK			W	8-5, 3-5				
Scoring	37.3	13	Scoring	21.9	91	Scoring	36.0	9			L	MISSOURI STATE 48-10				
Rushing	286.5	4	Rushing	113.5	97	Rushing	131.8	81			L	GEORGIA 41-52				
Passing	163.5	112	Passing	259.6	24	Passing	295.5	10			L	at Alabama 7-35				
Total	450.0	17	Total	373.1	49	Total	427.3	20			W	vs. Texas A&M 47-19				
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK			W	AUBURN 44-23				
Scoring	26.5	54	Scoring	31.2	93	Scoring	25.1	58			L	at Florida 20-23				
Rushing	160.2	64	Rushing	170.8	90	Rushing	152.7	73			L	at Ole Miss 17-30				
Passing	205.4	23	Passing	204.4	54	Passing	248.5	99			W	EASTERN MICHIGAN 63-27				
Total	365.6	46	Total	375.2	72	Total	401.2	89			W	SOUTH CAROLINA 33-16				
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK	TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK	TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK	%		W	TROY 56-20				
+4	+0.31	34	-9	-0.75	102	+15	+1.15	6			W	MISSISSIPPI STATE 42-21				
												L	at LSU (OT) 30-33			
												Liberty Bowl				
												W	vs. East Carolina (OT) 20-17			

Player Profile



Photo by John Williamson

Ryan Mallett

Mallett Feels Right at Home as a Hog

Ryan Mallett's arm was NFL ready but his heart wanted Arkansas again. It was no surprise the fourth-year junior quarterback didn't stick his toe in the surf, even as he publicly considered testing NFL waters before returning to the Razorbacks.

"I knew I wanted to come back because I was having so much fun," Mallett said.

Though he played high school ball in Texarkana, Texas, because his father coached there, Mallett always lived on the Arkansas side. He always wanted to be a Razorback.

Mallett didn't become one out of high school only because, as he was recruited in 2006, Arkansas' former head coach, former offensive coordinator and former quarterback were enveloped in conflict and controversy.

"It was a circus," Mallett said of Arkansas as he was being recruited. "And I didn't want to be the next act."

Mallett signed with Michigan.

By the close of 2007, Arkansas' 2006 controversies had departed.

Though having to redshirt, Mallett leaped to transfer at the semester break to new coach Bobby Petrino's Arkansas regime.

In 2009, his deferred dream came true. The 6-7 quarterback's big arm shattered Arkansas passing records. He completed 225 of 403 for 3,624 yards, with 30 touchdowns and only seven interceptions.

Then Mallett broke his foot during a winter conditioning drill.

Mallett shrugs.

"Everything happens for a reason," he said.

Mallett deemed the foot mended before April's end.

Though he couldn't practice in the spring, Mallett could throw on the side and be a mentor to Arkansas' young quarterbacks. He counseled on what Petrino and offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Garrick McGee assert is his biggest flaw: Taking the last bad play into the next play.

Delivering the message helps him get the message.

"When they make a mistake in practice," Mallett said of the young guys, "it really makes you understand that you have to just go on to the next play or it can hurt your rhythm or make you lose focus."

This time next year Petrino says Mallett's focus will be on the NFL.

This year, though, is not an NFL audition, Mallett asserts.

"I am looking at it that I am playing for the Razorbacks," Mallett said. "That's all that's on my mind. I have wanted to be in this position since I was born and I am here now, so I am going to enjoy it."

punt return in 2009, up from a pitiful 5.2 in 2008.

Junior receiver Jarius Wright leads the punt returners going into August.

No worries about many happy kick returns. Dennis Johnson averaged 22.1 yards, including a 96-yard touchdown in 2009. Petrino shudders about punting and place-kicking.

It's wide open for incoming freshmen punter/kickoff man Zach Hocker and Eduardo Camara to challenge incumbent kicker Alex Tejada and incumbent punter Dylan Breeding.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Razorbacks' 2010 schedule is more favorable than the one from last season.

The open date — which came way too soon last season, only a week after the opener — is sufficiently down the 2010 road to help. After clocking cupcake Missouri State in the opener then waiting two weeks before playing Georgia, the Razorbacks defense was dull. Arkansas then got squashed by Alabama.

This time the Hogs have the rhythm of successive home non-conference games against Tennessee Tech and Louisiana-Monroe before traveling to Georgia.

The open date occurs between the emotion spent against national champion Alabama and Arkansas' toughest nonconference game, versus Texas A&M. That should help. So should swapping Florida in Gainesville off the 2009 schedule for Vanderbilt in Fayetteville.

— Nate Allen

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	TENNESSEE TECH	6-5
Sept. 11	LOUISIANA-MONROE	6-6
Sept. 18	at Georgia	8-5
Sept. 25	ALABAMA	14-0
Oct. 9	vs. Texas A&M	6-7
Oct. 16	at Auburn	8-5
Oct. 23	OLE MISS	9-4
Oct. 30	VANDERBILT	2-10
Nov. 6	at South Carolina	7-6
Nov. 13	UTEP	4-8
Nov. 20	at Mississippi State	5-7
Nov. 27	LSU	9-4



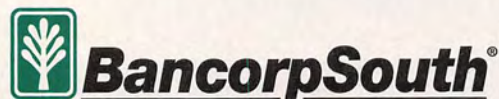
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trick plays, and the water-cooler bath.*



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TIGERS

For more coverage of the Tigers, visit auburn.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Gus Malzahn

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ted Roof

STADIUM: Jordan-Hare Stadium: 87,451

AT A GLANCE

2009

8-5, 3-5 SEC (T-4th, SEC West)

COACH

Gene Chizik — 8-5, 1 year; overall: 13-24, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS

15: 7 offense, 7 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Cameron Newton, RB Mario Fannin, WR Darvin Adams, OT Lee Ziemba, C Ryan Pugh, DT Nick Fairley, LB Josh Byrnes, LB Craig Stevens

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Four starting linemen return to a fast-paced offense that was one of the nation's best a year ago and still features big-play ability at the skill positions. Auburn has depth at defensive tackle. Byrd and Stevens are as good a linebacker duo as there is in the conference. Secondary is experienced. K Wes Byrum is almost automatic.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Experience at quarterback is a concern, and no tailback on the depth chart has ever been the go-to guy. Auburn lacks an elite pass rusher, and there is no real ball hawk in the secondary. Depth could be an issue at linebacker, tight end and on the offensive line. Special teams have issues in coverage and consistency on punts.

KEY LOSSES

QB Chris Todd, RB Ben Tate, OT Andrew McCain, DE Antonio Coleman, CB Walter McFadden, P Clinton Durst

OVERVIEW

The Tigers are a veteran team that should receive a jolt of energy when the rest of the nation's No. 4 recruiting class arrives in the fall (five players enrolled in January). Chizik's club has talent and is well coached, but quarterback play likely will determine whether this team can challenge preseason No. 1 Alabama in the SEC West.

Tigers Poised to Pounce in Chizik's Second Season

Ever since Gene Chizik arrived on the Plains, Auburn has been riding a steady stream of momentum.

Not only has Chizik rekindled a disciplined, team-first attitude that was lacking during the dismal 5-7 season of 2008, but the Clearwater, Fla., native has made it clear to parents of current and future Auburn players that their sons are in good hands under the second-year head coach's watchful eye.

Following an 8-5 season, which included a thrilling 38-35 overtime win over Northwestern in the Outback Bowl, Chizik and his staff parlayed their ability to sell the Tiger program by inking one of the best signing classes in America.

Although the emphasis on the recruiting trail was to find elite talent, recruiting coordinator Curtis Luper stressed that it's important to find the right fit for Auburn.

"You hear Coach Chizik say it all the time; he talks about the fit," said Luper. "The best players are not necessarily the best fit."

"So we try to find the guys that are the best fit for Auburn. Auburn men. Guys that when they find a wallet, they'll find the owner and get it back to them; just players or student athletes that we want around our families because our families are here every day. We want them at our home, around our children."

"So it takes a special person to actually fit the Auburn mold."

One major selling point to young players is Gus Malzahn's pedal-to-the-metal, misdirection offense. Under Malzahn's guidance, Auburn established single-season records for points (433), total yards (5,613), passing touchdowns (25) and plays (914) in 2009.

The Tigers also led the SEC in red

zone offense, had seven games where they rushed for 200 yards or more, and tallied 29 scoring drives that took less than two minutes.

Defensively, Auburn was deprived of legitimate depth, but the unit still found a way to make big plays. The defense recorded four touchdowns, held five of its last nine opponents to a 26 percent third down conversion rate and totaled 28 sacks.

The scoring numbers may not be where they were a year ago for defensive coordinator Ted Roof's unit this fall, but the entire defense should make a marked improvement.

Entering fall camp, Chizik's squad seems to be oozing confidence. Will it lead to results? There's no reason to think differently. Perhaps that's why the team slogan for the spring was to go "from good to great."

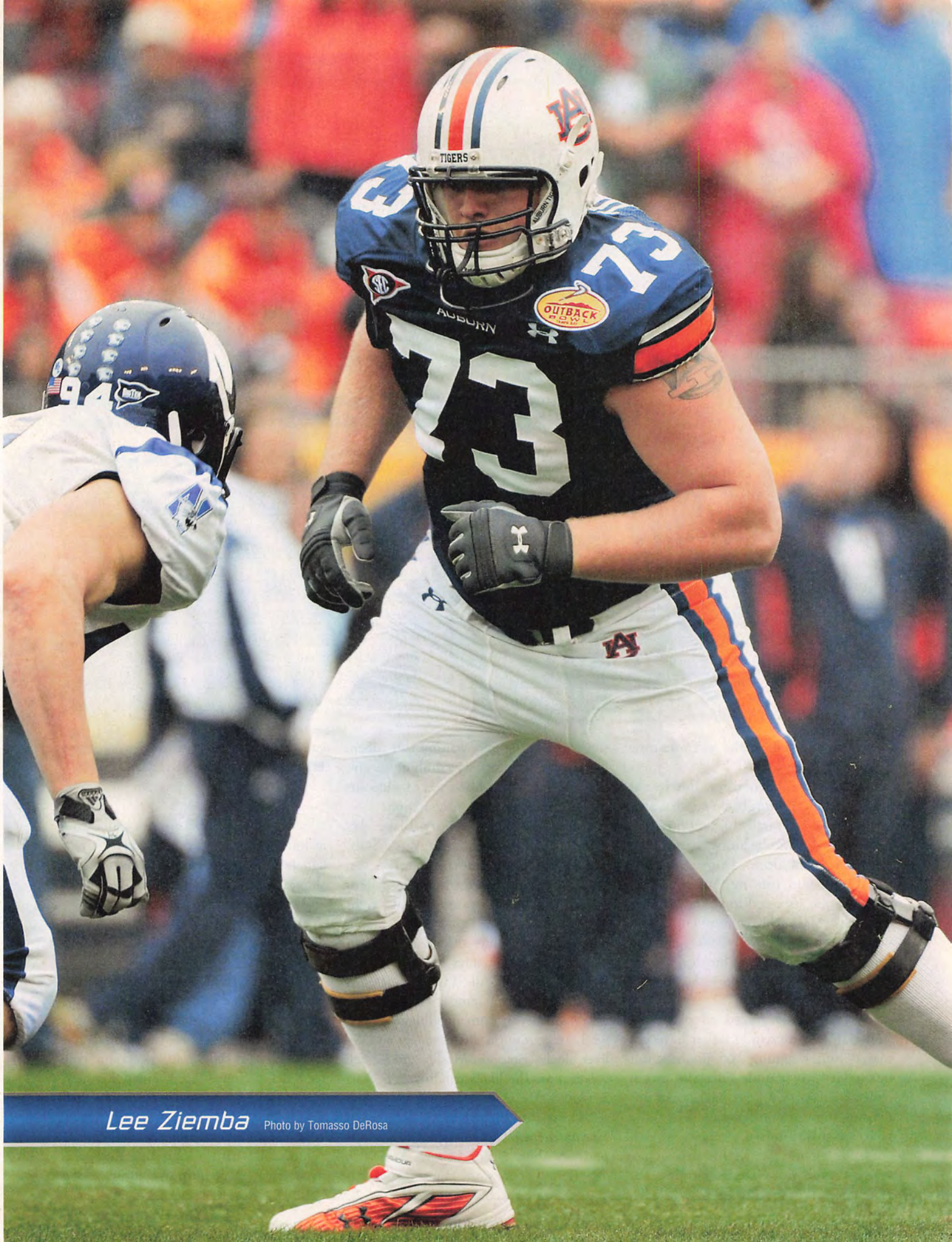
OFFENSE

The Tigers lost starting quarterback Chris Todd and tailback Ben Tate to graduation, but there is reason to still feel good about those two positions.

Cameron Newton enrolled in January and was named the starter following spring practice. Neil Caudle and sophomore Barrett Trotter are also fixed in a tight race for No. 2 that likely won't be decided until fall camp.

At 6-6, 247 pounds, Newton seems to be an ideal fit for coordinator Gus Malzahn's offense, considering he's got a live arm and is a punishing runner.

After playing in the slot a year ago due to a lack of playmakers at receiver, Mario Fannin, who may be the most versatile player in the SEC, steps into Tate's old role as the No. 1 tailback. Fannin, who has had fumbling issues in the past,



Lee Ziemba Photo by Tomasso DeRosa

Darvin Adams

didn't put the ball on the turf one time this spring.

"He'll be in a different role this year at tailback," said running backs coach Curtis Luper. "That's naturally his best position, so I expect this will be his best year."

Onterio McCalebb, Dontae Aycock, Eric Smith and true freshman Michael Dyer are also expected to see time in the backfield. McCalebb, whom Luper said was his most improved back following spring practice, isn't big, but has blazing speed and is a threat to take it the distance on every play.

"He was really forced to play as a freshman and we would rather have not played him weighing 165 pounds, but he's gained 10 pounds since the season ended," Luper said. "He has a great understanding of the offense, and he did a good job this spring."

Darvin Adams set an Auburn single-season record with 60 receptions last sea-

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Cameron Newton	Jr.	Junior college transfer has a gun and can run, too.	Neil Caudle, Sr.
RB	Mario Fannin*	Sr.	Coaches expecting a 1,000-yard season.	Onterio McCalebb, So.
WR	Darvin Adams*	Jr.	Has great hands and leaping ability.	DeAngelo Benton, So.
WR	Terrell Zachery*	Sr.	Had 214 yards rushing last year.	Emory Blake, Fr.
WR	Quindarius Carr	Jr.	Four receptions for 152 yards in A-Day game.	Travante Stallworth, So.
TE	Philip Lutzenkirchen	So.	Has the size, hands to become a weapon.	Robert Cooper, Fr.
LT	Lee Ziemba*	Sr.	Was a second-team All-SEC selection a year ago.	A.J. Greene, Jr.
LG	Mike Berry*	Sr.	Has great size and is adept at pulling.	John Sullen, So.
C	Ryan Pugh*	Sr.	One of the top centers in the nation.	Mike Berry, Sr.
RG	Byron Isom*	Sr.	Athletic guard who can pull effectively.	Bart Eddins, Sr.
RT	Brandon Mosley	Jr.	Will battle it out with Gaydon for starting spot.	Roszell Gaydon, Jr.
K	Wes Byrum*	Sr.	Nailed 15 of 16 field-goal attempts last season.	Chandler Brooks, Jr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Antoine Carter*	Sr.	Good pass rusher; poised for big senior year.	Dee Ford, So.
DT	Mike Blanc*	Sr.	Had 44 tackles and 3.5 sacks a year ago.	Zach Clayton, Sr.
DT	Nick Fairley	Jr.	Recorded 28 tackles and 3.5 tackles for loss in '09.	Derrick Lykes, So.
DE	Michael Goggans	Sr.	Is in a battle with Eguae for the starting spot.	Nosa Eguae, Fr.
LB	Craig Stevens*	Sr.	Had eight tackles for loss; six QB hurries in '09.	Jessel Curry, Fr.
LB	Josh Byrnes*	Sr.	Team leader; student of the game; great run stopper.	Eltoro Freeman, Jr.
LB	Daren Bates*	So.	Finished fourth on team in tackles; big-time player.	Jonathan Evans, So.
CB	Neiko Thorpe*	Jr.	Great special teams player; third on team in tackles.	T'Sharvan Bell, So.
CB	Demond Washington*	Sr.	Had a great spring; explosive playmaker.	D'Antoine Hood, Jr.
SS	Aairon Savage	Sr.	Returns from injury; aggressive hitter.	Drew Cole, Jr.
FS	Mike McNeil	Jr.	Big, physical presence and a good tackler.	Mike Slade, Jr.
P	Ryan Shoemaker	Sr.	Has a strong leg; good at placement kicks.	Steven Clark, Fr.

*Returning Starter

son and is a big-play waiting to happen. He and Terrell Zachery combine to give the Tigers one of the best sets of wideouts in the conference, if not the nation.

Quindarius Carr, Emory Blake, Jay Wisner, Kodi Burns and Travante Stallworth are also in the mix at receiver. Philip Lutzenkirchen, who has excellent hands, will be the team's primary tight end.

The offensive line should be a force, provided everyone stays healthy. Center Ryan Pugh is an All-SEC candidate, as is left tackle Lee Ziemba. Guards Mike Berry and Byron Isom are athletic players who can get out on the perimeter and deliver blocks. Brandon Mosley and Roszell Gaydon are the likely candidates to start at right tackle.

"Those guys got over 115 starts among themselves, so there's lots of experience there," said Luper. "And with experience, there's not many fronts that

can throw them off, so they won't leave many people unblocked."

DEFENSE

Scholarship numbers were a major issue at linebacker and in the secondary a year ago, but the nation's No. 4 recruiting class should infuse some much-needed depth and talent into a salty defense.

One unit that coordinator Ted Roof feels good about heading into fall camp is the defensive line.

Veterans Antoine Carter, Nick Fairley, Mike Blanc and either Michael Goggans or Nosa Eguae are a good bet to start, but Zach Clayton, Dee Ford, Jamar Travis and Derrick Lykes should all see action. True freshmen Jeffrey Whitaker and Kenneth Carter, and junior college transfer Joel Bonomolo, could also see playing time.

"I think they (defensive line) made some strides this spring and that's another area where some of those young



Cameron Newton

With the quarterback position opening up at Auburn this year, all eyes will be on nation's top junior college prospect to step in and win the job. Newton has fantastic size, all the physical tools and has already gotten a taste of SEC competition while at Florida, so there is a basis for the high expectations.



Michael Dyer

Dyer has a bowling ball build with huge legs and a thick upper body. He can take a hit and deliver one, but don't mistake him for a short-yardage back. Dyer is dynamite with the ball in his hands, showing great feet and elusiveness as well as impressive burst. Dyer is one of the best backs in the country.



Corey Lemonier

This spot would go to five-star offensive tackle Shon Coleman, but Lemonier gets the nod due to uncertainty surrounding Coleman's health. Coleman was diagnosed with cancer in the spring, and his football future was uncertain at press time. Lemonier is no slouch though. A long and athletic defensive end, Lemonier is one of the top prospects to come out of Florida in 2010.

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Joel Bonomolo	DE	6-3	245	★★★★★	Fullerton, CA	Fullerton C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 29 junior college prospect by Rivals.com... Had 41 tackles, 17 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks in 2008... Had 13 tackles with five tackles for loss and three sacks in five games in 2009.						
Kenneth Carter	DT	6-5	267	★★★★★	Greenville, AL	Greenville
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 23 defensive tackle... Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Ed Christian	OL	6-5	280	★★★★	Valdosta, GA	Lowndes
Rated as the No. 31 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 34 offensive tackle... Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Football Classic.						
Steven Clark	K	6-5	230	★★★	Kansas City, MO	Park Hill
Rated as the nation's No. 20 kicker by Rivals.com... Averaged nearly 40 yards per punt as a junior.						
Shon Coleman	OL	6-7	285	★★★★★	Olive Branch, MS	Olive Branch
Rivals100 selection... Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Mississippi... Rated as the nation's No. 3 offensive tackle... Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl... Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic... Was recently diagnosed with leukemia and has undergone chemotherapy treatment.						
Jessel Curry	LB	6-2	215	★★★★	Buford, GA	Buford
Rated as the No. 62 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 44 outside linebacker... Had more than 100 tackles and five interceptions as a senior... Enrolled at Auburn in January.						
Chris Davis	ATH	5-11	175	★★★	Birmingham, AL	Woodlawn
Had 1,621 all-purpose yards and scored 60 of his team's 109 points as a senior... Chose Auburn over South Carolina and UAB.						
Justin Delaine	DE	6-5	225	★★★	Linden, AL	Linden
Rated as the No. 31 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com... Had 46 tackles, eight sacks and seven tackles for loss as a senior.						
Michael Dyer	RB	5-8	201	★★★★★	Little Rock, AR	Little Rock Christian
Rivals100 selection... Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Arkansas... Rated as the nation's No. 2 running back... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game... Rushed for 8,097 yards and 84 touchdowns during his career.						
Tunde Fariyike	OL	6-3	295	★★	Thomaston, GA	Upson Lee
Two-year starter on the offensive line... Earned first-team all-region honors as a senior after earning second-team honors as a junior.						
Roszell Gayden	OL	6-7	310	★★★★	Visalia, CA	College of the Sequoias
Rated as the nation's No. 11 junior college prospect by Rivals.com... Enrolled at Auburn in January.						
Antonio Goodwin	WR	6-2	170	★★★★	Atlanta, GA	Washington
Rated as the No. 28 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 39 wide receiver... Had over 800 yards receiving and seven touchdowns as a senior.						
Jake Holland	LB	6-1	228	★★★★	Pelham, AL	Pelham
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 8 inside linebacker... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game... Finished high school career with 351 tackles.						
Shaun Kitchens	ATH	6-3	211	★★★	College Park, GA	Banneker
Rated as the No. 40 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 48 athlete.						
Corey Lemonier	DE	6-5	223	★★★★	Hialeah, FL	Hialeah
Rivals100 selection... Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Florida... Rated as the nation's No. 3 weakside defensive end... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game... Participated in Aloha Prep Bowl.						
Eric Mack	OL	6-4	315	★★★★	St. Matthews, SC	Calhoun County
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 6 offensive guard... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game... Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.						

2011 NEEDS

Auburn picked up three quarterbacks in the 2009 class, but only one in 2010 (Newton) and he is a junior college product. The Tigers will look to add at least one quarterback while they continue to build depth on both the offensive and defensive lines. Look for upwards of four defensive backs to be part of the class as well. The Tigers will need to target a few receivers and likely one running back to continue to stockpile talent for Gus Malzahn's offense.

THE SLEEPER



Jessel Curry

Early in his high school career Curry was as much a safety as a linebacker, but as he has added weight, he has become a true linebacker that has brought his athleticism as a safety with him to the position. Curry's nose for the football and sideline-to-sideline mentality could make him a very productive defender in the SEC.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Commitments	32
Average Stars	3.50
★★★★★	3
★★★★☆	13
★★★☆☆	13
★★☆☆☆	3
Total Stars	112
National Rank: 4	SEC: 2

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Demetrius McNeal	DB	6-1	176	★★★	College Park, GA	Banneker
Rated as the No. 70 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 57 safety... Had 104 tackles as a senior.						
Jonathon Mincy	DB	5-10	175	★★★	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb
Rated as the No. 35 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 38 cornerback... Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Football Classic.						
Brandon Mosley	TE	6-6	285	★★★★	Coffeyville, KS	Coffeyville C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 19 junior college prospect by Rivals.com... Had 12 catches for 229 yards and two touchdowns and 35 tackles on defense in 2009... Enrolled at Auburn in January.						
Dakota Mosley	TE	6-4	252	★★★	Little Rock, AR	Little Rock Christian
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 33 tight end... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						
Cameron Newton	QB	6-6	247	★★★★★	Brenham, TX	Blinn C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 1 junior college prospect by Rivals.com... Helped lead team to 2009 NJCAA national championship after passing for 2,833 yards and 22 touchdowns and rushing for 655 yards and 16 touchdowns... Enrolled at Auburn in January.						
LaDarius Owens	LB	6-2	225	★★★★	Bessemer, AL	Jess Lanier
Rivals250 selection... Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Alabama... Rated as the nation's No. 8 outside linebacker... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game... Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Cody Parkey	K	6-2	195	★★★	Jupiter, FL	Jupiter
Rated as the nation's No. 6 kicker by Rivals.com... Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						
Ladarius Phillips	RB	6-1	275	★★★	Roanoke, AL	Handley
Rushed for 1,145 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior while recording 59 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and eight sacks.						
Trovon Reed	ATH	6-0	173	★★★★	Thibodaux, LA	Thibodaux
Rivals100 selection... Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Louisiana... Rated as the nation's No. 4 athlete... Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl... Selected to compete in Aloha Prep Bowl.						
Jeremy Richardson	WR	6-4	220	★★★★	Springville, AL	Springville
Rivals250 selection... Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Alabama... Rated as the nation's No. 27 wide receiver... Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Craig Sanders	DE	6-4	230	★★★★	Ariton, AL	Ariton
Rivals250 selection... Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Alabama... Rated as the nation's No. 12 weakside defensive end... Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic... Enrolled at Auburn in January.						
Chad Slade	OL	6-6	316	★★★	Moody, AL	Moody
Chose Auburn over Miss. State and UAB. Rated No. 59 offensive guard nationally by ESPN.						
Ryan Smith	ATH	6-2	208	★★★	Cordova, AL	Cordova
Helped lead team to three straight appearances in state title game... Rushed for 1,856 yards and 26 touchdowns as a senior.						
Jeffrey Whitaker	DT	6-3	295	★★★★	Warner Robins, GA	Warner Robins
Rivals100 selection... Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Georgia... Rated as the nation's No. 5 defensive tackle... Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl... Selected to participate in the GACA North-South All-Star Football Classic.						
Jawara White	LB	6-2	220	★★★	Troy, AL	Henderson
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com... Rated as the nation's No. 23 outside linebacker... Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Ryan White	ATH	6-0	185	★★★	Tallahassee, FL	Lincoln
Played quarterback at Lincoln and led team to 11th-consecutive district championship in 2009.						

No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown						
89 Darvin Adams	WR	6-3	192	Jr.	Canton, MS	40 Robert Hill	DE	6-1	239	Jr.	Corner
28 Dontae Aycock	RB	5-10	218	Fr.	Tampa, FL	24 D'Antoine Hood	DB	5-10	192	Jr.	Phenix City
40 Trevor Barden	WR	6-4	191	So.	Canton, GA	45 Davis Hooper	RB	6-0	207	Jr.	Montgomery
25 Daren Bates	LB	5-11	202	So.	Memphis, TN	96 Chris Humphries	LB	6-2	225	So.	Somerville
22 T'Sharvan Bell	DB	6-0	179	So.	Kissimmee, FL	57 Byron Isom	OL	6-3	310	Sr.	Jonesboro, GA
3 DeAngelo Benton	WR	6-2	205	So.	Bastrop, LA	60 Joe Jones	DL	5-11	308	Fr.	Gardendale
66 Mike Berry	OL	6-3	323	Sr.	Antioch, TN	67 George Kasper	OL	5-11	235	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
80 Emory Blake	WR	6-1	194	Fr.	Austin, TX	35 Jacob Kerby	FB	6-1	222	Fr.	Demopolis
93 Mike Blanc	DL	6-4	289	Sr.	Pompano Beach, FL	65 Jake Lemke	DS	6-0	227	Fr.	New Lenox, IL
76 Jorrell Bostrom	OL	6-3	336	Sr.	Nampa, ID	43 Phillip Lutzenkirchen	TE	6-4	246	So.	Marietta, GA
29 Chandler Brooks	K	6-0	177	Jr.	Huntsville	97 Derrick Lykes	DL	6-2	281	So.	Clanton
29 Xavier Brown	WR	6-2	198	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA	23 Oterio McCalebb	RB	5-10	175	So.	Fort Meade, FL
63 Blake Burgess	OL	6-2	265	Fr.	Vestavia Hills	26 Mike McNeil	S	6-2	210	Jr.	Mobile
18 Kodi Burns	WR	6-2	207	Sr.	Fort Smith, AR	16 Ikeem Means	DB	6-0	204	Fr.	Wetumpka
59 Patrick Butler	LB	6-0	244	Sr.	Columbus, GA	37 Tyler Mickens	DB	5-10	184	Fr.	Jonesboro, GA
17 Josh Byrnes	LB	6-2	239	Sr.	Lauderdale Lakes, FL	8 Anthony Guiley Morgan	DB	5-9	185	So.	Brantley
18 Wes Byrum	K	6-2	211	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, FL	15 Clint Moseley	QB	6-3	215	Fr.	Leroy
47 Joey Caldwell	LB	6-1	226	So.	Five Points	75 Brandon Mosley	OL	6-6	294	Jr.	Jefferson, GA
9 Quindarius Carr	WR	6-1	184	Jr.	Huntsville	2 Cameron Newton	QB	6-6	247	Jr.	College Park, GA
62 Kevin Carroll	OL	6-1	263	Sr.	Lassiter, GA	24 Chris Ostensen	WR	6-3	212	Jr.	Springfield, VA
45 Antoine Carter	DE	6-4	260	Sr.	Fl. Lauderdale, FL	72 Andrew Parmer	OL	5-10	269	So.	Dalton, GA
19 Neil Caudle	QB	6-3	201	Sr.	Hoover	48 Woody Parramore	DB	5-8	178	Sr.	Montgomery
36 Wade Christopher	LB	6-1	218	Jr.	Vestavia Hills	42 Philip Pierre-Louis	WR	5-8	150	So.	FL Lauderdale, FL
98 Zach Clayton	DL	6-3	293	Sr.	Opelika	29 Blake Poole	DB	6-0	188	Fr.	Buchanan, GA
41 Rodney Cofield	DB	5-7	156	Fr.	Atlanta, GA	41 Edgar Pritchett	WR	5-11	170	So.	Phenix City
20 Drew Cole	DB	5-11	193	Jr.	Picayune, MS	50 Ryan Pugh	OL	6-4	293	Sr.	Hoover
79 Jared Cooper	OL	6-4	309	Jr.	Brewton	30 Dorian Rhodes	DB	5-11	182	Fr.	Birmingham
16 Robert Cooper	TE	6-4	210	Fr.	Mobile	56 Ashton Richardson	LB	6-0	202	Jr.	New Orleans, LA
30 LaElice Crayton	RB	5-9	210	Sr.	Jackson Gap	13 Craig Sanders	DE	6-4	240	Fr.	Ariton
33 Jessel Curry	LB	6-1	209	Fr.	Buford, GA	2 Airon Savage	DB	5-11	200	Sr.	Albany, GA
51 Watson Downs	LB	6-0	213	So.	Dothan	99 Blake Shaffer	LB	5-11	208	Fr.	Alexander City
53 Bart Eddins	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Montgomery	21 Ryan Shoemaker	P	6-0	183	Sr.	Birmingham
94 Nosa Eguae	DE	6-2	249	Fr.	Mansfield, TX	11 Mike Slade	DB	6-3	191	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL
38 Chase Erickson	LB	6-0	203	Fr.	Cold Spring Harbor, NY	32 Eric Smith	RB	5-10	239	Jr.	Seffner, FL
4 Zac Etheridge	SS	6-0	210	Sr.	Troy	39 Ralph Spry	WR	5-10	167	Jr.	Auburn
35 Jonathan Evans	LB	5-11	216	So.	Prichard	85 Travante Stallworth	WR	5-9	180	So.	Leesville
90 Nick Fairley	DL	6-5	314	Jr.	Mobile	46 Craig Stevens	LB	6-3	323	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL
27 Mario Fannin	RB	5-11	227	Sr.	Hampton, GA	71 John Sullen	OL	6-6	324	So.	Auburn
95 Dee Ford	DE	6-4	233	So.	Odenville	47 Nathan Taylor	WR	5-10	180	Jr.	Fredericksburg, VA
21 Eltoro Freeman	LB	5-11	223	Jr.	Alexander City	15 Neiko Thorpe	DB	6-2	192	Jr.	Tucker, GA
58 Harris Gaston	LB	6-1	229	Fr.	Bessemer	74 Jamar Travis	DL	6-0	292	So.	Brewton
78 Roszell Gaydon	OL	6-6	321	Jr.	New Hope, MN	14 Barrett Trotter	QB	6-2	210	So.	Birmingham
49 Michael Goggans	DE	6-3	261	Sr.	Alexander City	14 Demond Washington	DB	5-9	183	Sr.	Tallassee
77 A.J. Greene	OL	6-5	280	Jr.	Madison, TN	87 Derek Winter	WR	6-0	205	Jr.	Tampa, FL
70 Andre Harris	OL	6-3	308	Fr.	Lovejoy, GA	82 Jay Wisner	WR	6-2	191	Sr.	Bozeman, MT
61 Josh Harris	DS	6-1	228	Jr.	Carrollton, GA	81 Terrell Zachery	WR	6-1	211	Sr.	Wadley
						73 Lee Ziemba	OL	6-8	320	Sr.	Rogers, AR

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD	Lng	Avg/G
C. Todd	13	145.73	198	328	6	60.4	2612	22	93	200.9
N. Caudle	4	152.90	15	20	1	75.0	170	1	22	42.5

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Avg/G
D. Adams	13	60	997	16.6	10	72	76.7
M. Fannin	13	42	413	9.8	3	82	31.8
T. Zachery	13	26	477	18.3	5	93	36.7

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Avg/G
B. Tate	13	263	1406	44	1362	5.2	10	60	104.8
O. McCalebb	11	105	606	41	565	5.4	4	62	51.4
M. Fannin	13	34	296	11	285	8.4	0	32	21.9

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: J. Byrnes 104, C. Stevens 95, N. Thorpe 84
 Tackles for loss: A. Coleman 16.5, C. Stevens 8, M. Blanc 6.5
 Sacks: A. Coleman 10, M. Blanc 3.5, C. Stevens 2.5
 Interceptions: W. McFadden 6, T. Bell 3, N. Thorpe 2

Last season, Auburn was depleted in scholarships due to inadequacies in recruiting by the previous coaching regime and other factors such as injuries and transfers. But coach **Gene Chizik** and his staff did a remarkable job this offseason in trying to replenish those areas.

Trouble spots were linebacker, offensive line, receiver and the secondary, but all four of those units were heavily addressed in the 2010 recruiting class.

Last season's Alabama game was just one example of where a lack of depth really hurt the Tigers' chances. Auburn dressed only three scholarship linebackers — one a true freshman — and fatigue became a factor late in the contest. Barring any major injuries, that won't be a scenario again this season.

"The freshmen coming in will have to provide immediate depth," said defensive coordinator **Ted Roof**.

"You build depth by player development, developing players and recruiting, and that's what we're going to do. We're still a ways off, but we're certainly making progress."

• **Mario Fannin** on being the No. 1 running back: "I'm excited. I can't wait to get that journey going. It's something that you dream about as you go through the recruiting process as a high school senior. Now I'm getting a chance to do what I've wanted to do for a long time in college, and hopefully I can fulfill a dream and get to the next level."

• Fannin on his offensive line: "Our linemen are probably the best linemen in the nation. They're smart, they're tough and they have a great coach that coaches them. And the guys all trust each other; they trust me and they trust this whole offense as far as it working. We have to trust our offensive line and do it with great integrity. I commend them for all that they do."

• A record-crowd of 63,217 was in attendance at the A-Day game. **Quindarius Carr** (offense), **Antoine Carter** (defense) and **Wes Byrum** (special teams) were selected as the game's MVPs.

• Roof on **LB Daren Bates**: "He's a guy that can run and strike, and we need to have him on the field."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On challenges facing the defense: "Auburn has always been known for being tough, hard-nosed, on defense. It's a challenge to maintain that toughness against the offense they practice against every day. The offense is so much smoke and mirrors, trying to fool you."

• On Auburn's coaching situation, with second-year **Gene Chizik**: "Auburn's situation was very similar to Tennessee's before they ran Tommy (Tuberville) out of town. Tommy made a bad hire (in offensive coordinator Tony Franklin). If you ask Phillip (Fulmer), he made a bad hire (offensive coordinator Dave Clawson). I think it'll be tough to duplicate what Tommy did because he did a tremendous job there."

• On those who thought Tennessee made a better hire after the 2008 season with **Lane Kiffin**: "It's obvious Auburn made a better hire than Tennessee. The proof is in the pudding."

Onterio McCalebb

kids, especially inside, are going to have a chance to give us some depth immediately," Roof said.

"You know ... that's got to be the meat of your defense in the SEC. If you're not strong there, you're going to be in for a lot of rough Saturdays. That's where it all starts for us on defense."

The Tigers appear to be in much better shape at linebacker heading into this season than they were a year ago with the return of veteran starters Josh Bynes,

Craig Stevens and Eltoro Freeman. Bynes is adept at playing the run, but he's also a quality pass defender and had seven pass deflections a year ago.

"He's done a fantastic job with the younger players this spring and there's a lot of value in being able to run the operation," Roof said.

"Josh can get guys lined up; he understands the checks. And where his game has grown this spring, is not just understanding defense but understanding offenses and how we're going to be attacked, why teams attack certain looks and things of that nature."

Stevens is an All-SEC candidate and will start on the weakside. Freeman, Jonathan Evans and January enrollee Jessel Curry, a true freshman, are all candidates for significant playing time.

Daren Bates, a Freshman All-SEC selection a year ago, moved from safety to linebacker during the spring (although he didn't participate) and will likely start on the strongside. He's a ferocious hitter who can really run.

Neiko Thorpe and Demond Washington are the starting corners. Thorpe has good man-to-man skills and doesn't mind playing run support. Washington, who played out of position at times last year, had a great spring and doesn't shy away from contact either.

Former starters Mike McNeil and Aaron Savage are returning from injuries, and if healthy, could combine to form one of the hardest hitting safety combos in the SEC. Drew Cole, T'Sharvan Bell, D'Antoine Hood and Mike Slade will supply secondary depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Auburn struggled to find consistency in its punt return game and on cover units last year, but Wes Byrum was nearly flawless as the kicker.

Byrum set single-season records for most points scored (99), field goal per-

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Mario Fannin

Played receiver last year and finished with 42 catches. ... Is team's No. 1 tailback entering fall camp. ... Averaged 8.4 yards per carry last season; 9.8 yards per reception. ... Had an 82-yard TD reception against West Virginia in 2009. ... Has 971 career yards rushing, 812 yards receiving and 944 kick return yards. ... Has a career rushing average of 5.6 yards per carry. ... Has 2,722 career all-purpose yards. ... Averaged 21.2 yards per kickoff return a year ago.



EMERGING STAR

DT Nick Fairley

Extremely athletic for a 6-5, 314-pound tackle. ... Recorded four tackles, a half sack, a half tackle for loss and a team-high three quarterback hurries against Alabama. ... Added five solo tackles in the Tigers' three-point Outback Bowl win. ... Ended the season with 28 tackles, including 3.5 for loss, 1.5 sacks. Also had seven quarterback hurries (tied for second on the team) and a blocked kick. ... Coaches like his potential but want him to work hard to achieve it. ... Always a threat to block a kick.



TOP NEWCOMER

QB Cameron Newton

Guided Blinn College to the 2009 NJCAA national championship after throwing for 2,833 yards and 22 touchdowns. ... Also added 655 yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground. ... Saw action as a Florida Gator when he was a freshman in 2007. ... Had a 61-yard completion down the middle to Quindarius Carr in the A-Day game. He finished 3-of-8 passing for 80 yards. ... Has a big arm and could be a weapon at the goal line.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	24.2	84
Rushing	156.9	53
Passing	178.2	103
Total	335.2	97

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	16.9	6
Rushing	124.7	29
Passing	173.2	6
Total	297.9	6

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
0	0.0	55

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	17.3	110
Rushing	137.5	69
Passing	165.4	99
Total	302.9	104

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	18.0	14
Rushing	138.9	54
Passing	178.8	21
Total	317.8	29

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-8	-0.67	100

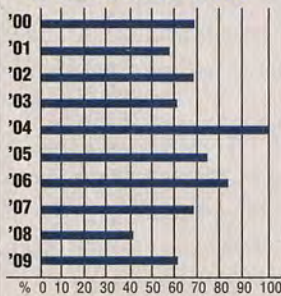
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	33.3	17
Rushing	212.0	13
Passing	219.8	56
Total	431.8	16

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	27.5	79
Rushing	156.1	78
Passing	218.0	57
Total	374.1	68

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+1	+0.08	57

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

8-5, 3-5

W	LOUISIANA TECH	37-13
W	MISSISSIPPI STATE	49-24
W	WEST VIRGINIA	41-30
W	BALL STATE	54-30
W	at Tennessee	26-22
L	at Arkansas	23-44
L	KENTUCKY	14-21
L	at LSU	10-31
W	OLE MISS	33-20
W	FURMAN	63-31
L	at Georgia	24-31
L	ALABAMA	21-26

Outback Bowl

W	vs. Northwestern (OT)	38-35
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Player Profile



Photo by R.D. Moore

Josh Bynes

Bynes Has One Thing on His Mind: Winning

To say Josh Bynes loves football would be an understatement.

The 6-2, 239-pound senior began playing when he was 6-years old and has been giving opponents fits ever since. But it wasn't until Bynes' junior year in high school that he knew a future in college football was on the horizon.

"It was the first game of the season against a big-time rival, and at the end of the game I had 21 tackles, three forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries," said Bynes. "Then, for like the next week

or two, me and my brother were the face of the school and it continued on through the season. Then it just took off from there."

In his first full season as Auburn starting middle linebacker, Bynes tallied a team-high 104 tackles, a sack, an interception and two fumble recoveries. He also concentrated on becoming more of a vocal leader on the field, a key component to calling the plays on defense.

"Last year, I was just trying to get accustomed to the coaches and become more of a vocal leader than I thought I was," said Bynes. "I needed to be more vocal and not just someone who's out there."

Throughout spring practice, Bynes exuded more leadership qualities than ever before. In addition to helping some of his younger counterparts learn the linebacker position, No. 17 pushed his teammates to finish. And finishing may be the difference in being a contender or pretender for the Tigers in 2010.

"During the spring, we (the team) stressed finishing," said Bynes. "The last week of practice, when everyone was like 'Awe man, I'm tired, my body is worn out,' we would get on each other and say ... 'Let's finish. Let's go out there and go to work.'"

Entering his final campaign on the Plains, Bynes would like to have his name mentioned among the SEC and national elite when the year concludes. However, the team's goals are the most important thing driving Auburn's fiery defensive presence.

"I would like to make All-SEC and All-American, but I know if we take care of things as a team all of the other individual things will take care of themselves," said Bynes. "I've never been really too focused on me as an individual. I'm worried about what we're going to do as a team."

centage (93.8), PATs made (54) and PATs attempted (54) en route to winning the special teams MVP award.

Ryan Shoemaker, an All-SEC selection as a freshman in 2007, will take over the punting. He has a strong leg but needs to improve his consistency. If he does, Auburn's kicking game will be deadly.

Demond Washington — who averaged an Auburn single-season best 31.6 yards per kickoff return — and Mario Fannin likely will handle the kick return duties. Quindarius Carr is a candidate to handle punt returns.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Four of the Tigers' first five games are at home, including the opener against Arkansas State, so a quick start is possible. However, Auburn must not overlook an up-and-coming Mississippi State club in Starkville during week two ... or a 1-1 start could be in the cards.

Home games against Clemson, South Carolina and Louisiana-Monroe should have Jordan-Hare Stadium rocking during the month of September. Chizik's club then hits a crucial four-game stretch against Kentucky (away), Arkansas (home), LSU (home) and Ole Miss (away) that could have SEC West title implications.

Tennessee-Chattanooga and Georgia are Auburn's final home opponents. The Tigers square off against rival Alabama in the season finale.

— Matt Lowe

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	ARKANSAS STATE	4-8
Sept. 9	at Mississippi State	5-7
Sept. 18	CLEMSON	9-5
Sept. 25	SOUTH CAROLINA	7-6
Oct. 2	LOUISIANA-MONROE	6-6
Oct. 9	at Kentucky	7-6
Oct. 16	ARKANSAS	8-5
Oct. 23	LSU	9-4
Oct. 30	at Ole Miss	9-4
Nov. 6	TENNESSEE-CHATTANOOGA	6-5
Nov. 13	GEORGIA	8-5
Nov. 26	at Alabama	14-0

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GATORS

For more coverage of the Gators, visit florida.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Steve Addazio

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Teryl Austin

STADIUM: Ben Hill Griffin: 88,548

AT A GLANCE

2009

13-1, 8-0 SEC (1st, East)

COACH

Urban Meyer — At Florida: 57-10, 5 years;
overall: 96-18, 9 years

RETURNING STARTERS

13; 6 offense, 5 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB John Brantley, RB Jeff Demps,
RB/WR Chris Rainey, WR Deonte Thompson,
DE Justin Trattou, CB Janoris Jenkins,
S Ahmad Black, S Will Hill

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The Gators will have no trouble running the ball behind a veteran offensive line, and Demps is a touchdown threat every time he touches the ball. Emmanuel Moody and Mike Gillislee are tough inside runners. There is plenty of speed in the secondary and that unit will be the defense's strength.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Other than Thompson, there are no proven receivers. Carl Moore had a big spring game, but he is coming off a back injury. What about a pass rush? Defensive ends Carlos Dunlap and Jermaine Cunningham are gone, and Trattou and Duke Lemmens won't have the same kind of production. It may have to come from the linebackers.

KEY LOSSES

QB Tim Tebow, WR Riley Cooper, TE Aaron Hernandez, CB Joe Haden, LB Brandon Spikes

OVERVIEW

It's fair to expect a drop-off after losing one of the greatest college football players in history and the key cogs of one of the nation's top defenses. Making things worse are road games at Tennessee, Alabama and Florida State. UF probably isn't a national title contender, but it does have enough talent — albeit unproven — to win the SEC East title.

With New Leaders, Gators Try To Solve Identity Crisis

The Florida Gators knew exactly what they were in 2009.

An option-based offense led by Tim Tebow.

A defense filled with playmakers and several potential first-round NFL Draft picks.

Defending national champions.

Now there's an identity crisis in Gainesville. The departure of so many key players — Tebow among them — has left the coaching staff struggling to figure out what kind of team the Gators will be in 2010.

And they may not know before the Sept. 4 season opener against Miami (Ohio).

"We have no idea right now," head coach Urban Meyer said.

Especially on offense.

Are the Gators still a spread team? More I-formation? Option football or a pro-style offense? Is it built around quarterback John Brantley? Or the running game?

"Who are we? What are we going to be? I really don't know that yet," offensive coordinator Steve Addazio said.

"We're in the developmental stage of all that. ... I think I know what all the components are. It's a matter of getting a good, working package together. Can we throw it? Heck, yeah. Can we run block? Heck, yeah. Do we have good tailbacks? Yes."

Don't be surprised if the Gators completely abandon the spread offense that Meyer brought from Utah. They had to do that in 2005 when the personnel didn't match and there was a rash of injured receivers.

"We're going to do what we do well," Meyer said. "And if that's I-formation, if it's shotgun, if it's (tight end) Jordan Reed at quarterback, if it's throwing it all over the lot ... I don't know."

Defensive coordinator Teryl Austin doesn't, either.

He's in his first season at Florida after spending the past seven seasons as a defensive backs coach in the NFL. He's still familiarizing himself with his roster and is eagerly awaiting the return of several injured players and the arrival of several more from what has been called the best defensive signing class in history.

That'll determine if the Gators are a base 3-4 or a 4-3 and whether Austin feels more comfortable with an attacking, blitzing style or more of a read-and-react approach.

"The identity we're trying to be is we're going to run; we're going to give you great effort; we're going to be a physical defense; and we're going to get after you," Austin said. "That's the identity we want to have."

OFFENSE

Nobody has bigger shoes to fill — maybe in the history of college football — than quarterback John Brantley. All he has to do is replace one of the greatest players to ever play the college game.

The redshirt junior has the right demeanor for it: low key, laid back and quiet.

The coaches believe he has the right physical tools, too. He's the prototypical pro-style quarterback: 6-3, 218 pounds with a big arm and the ability to make every throw.

The one area in which he needs a lot of work is being a vocal leader. That was one of Tebow's biggest strengths.

"That's what I've tried to learn these past three years, to become more of a leader," said Brantley, who has completed 71 percent of his passes (54 for 76) for 645 yards and 10 touchdowns with only one interception in mop-up work.

"I'm not outspoken that much. I think I've learned that so far and I'm just work-



Jeff Demps Photo by Tomasso DeRosa



Mike Pouncey

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	John Brantley	Jr.	Career totals: 645 yards, 10 TDs, 1 INT.	Trey Burton, Fr.
RB	Jeff Demps*	Jr.	Has averaged 7.6 yards on 177 career carries.	Mike Gillislee, So.
WR	Carl Moore	Sr.	Back injury cost him the 2009 season.	T.J. Lawrence, So.
WR	Chris Rainey	Jr.	Moved from running back to slot receiver.	Andre Debose, Fr.
WR	Deonte Thompson*	Jr.	Has 42 career catches.	Frankie Hammond Jr., So.
TE	Jordan Reed	Fr.	Moved from quarterback in the spring.	Gerald Christian, Fr.
LT	Xavier Nixon*	So.	Finished last season as the starter.	Matt Patchan, Jr.
LG	Carl Johnson*	Sr.	Moved from LT to make way for Nixon.	Jonothan Harrison, Fr.
C	Mike Pouncey*	Sr.	Moved from guard to replace his brother.	Nick Alajajian, Fr.
RG	Maurice Hurt	Sr.	Started five games early last season at RG and LG.	David Young, So.
RT	Marcus Gilbert*	Sr.	Grade of 99 vs. Georgia highest of any OL.	Ian Silberman, Fr.
K	Caleb Sturgis*	Jr.	Needs to become more consistent.	Zachary Brust, Jr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Justin Trattou*	Sr.	Leads UF with 7.0 career sacks.	Earl Okine, So.
DT	Terron Sanders*	Sr.	Has had surgery on both hips.	Jaye Howard, Jr.
DT	Lawrence Marsh	Sr.	Solid, not spectacular, in middle of line.	Omar Hunter, So.
DE	Duke Lemmens	Sr.	UF's most improved player in the spring.	William Green, Jr.
LB	Jon Bostic	So.	Will shuttle between MLB and OLB.	Dee Finley, So.
LB	Jelani Jenkins	Fr.	Stood out in the spring and emerged as leader.	Brendan Beal, So.
LB	Brandon Hicks*	Sr.	Pretty good pass rusher (6.5 career sacks).	A.J. Jones, Sr.
CB	Jeremy Brown	So.	Has to hold off several players to keep spot.	Moses Jenkins, Sr.
CB	Janoris Jenkins*	Jr.	Has started 25 of 27 career games.	Adrian Bushell, So.
SS	Ahmad Black*	Sr.	Smartest player on defense always in right spot.	Matt Elam, Fr.
FS	Will Hill	Jr.	Big hitter was key part of safety rotation in '09.	Jordan Haden, Fr.
P	Chas Henry*	Sr.	Averaged 43.4 yards per punt.	David Lerner, Jr.

*Returning Starter

ing on it right now. I think I'm progressing in it."

He has a solid supporting cast, especially in the backfield. Running back Jeff Demps has been a big-play machine and has averaged 7.6 yards per carry in his career (177 carries).

Emmanuel Moody is a tough runner (1,254 yards and five touchdowns in his career), but he's seldom healthy for more than a few games in a row. Mike Gillislee had a good spring and showed he can handle some of the inside carries that Tebow had last season.

"Sometimes I don't know how he breaks some of these tackles," Brantley said of Gillislee, who averaged 8.6 yards on 31 carries last season.

Deonte Thompson (42 career catches) is UF's only proven receiver. Carl Moore, a junior college transfer in 2008, is coming off a back injury that cost him the 2009

season, but he caught eight passes in the spring game.

Chris Rainey was moved from running back to slot receiver, and Andre Debose, who was one of the nation's top recruits in 2009, is coming off a hamstring injury that kept him from playing last season.

Justin Williams, T.J. Lawrence and Frankie Hammond have yet to make an impact. They have a combined 24 career catches.

It's interesting at tight end, where former quarterback Jordan Reed is the projected starter and also will get some work in the Wildcat formation.

UF returns four starters on the line, including Mike Pouncey, who will line up at center after spending the past two seasons at right guard. Left tackle Xavier Nixon worked his way into the starting lineup late last season, and his development allowed Carl Johnson to move to left guard.

DEFENSE

Entering the spring, defensive coordinator Teryl Austin's biggest concern was his linebackers. It didn't take long for him to feel at ease.

The group isn't huge — Brendan Beal is the biggest at 6-3, 246 pounds — but UF's linebackers are athletic and have plenty of speed. The projected starter in the middle is Jelani Jenkins, who at 6-0, 220 is the smallest linebacker on the roster.

"I saw some guys who really bought into what we're doing," Austin said of his linebackers.

"I saw guys that work hard. I saw guys that can run and tackle. They can play in space. They can play linebacker in the SEC and so you didn't feel, 'OK, we're short there.'"

Brandon Hicks, A.J. Jones, Jon Bostic, Lorenzo Edwards, Dee Finley, Beal and

**Ronald Powell**

Powell is the most unique athlete in the entire 2010 class because of his ability to play a number of positions. His size and athleticism should allow Powell to make a big impact early coming off the edge. Don't count on him being in Gainesville for four years.

**Sharif Floyd**

Floyd has a complete skill set at defensive tackle. He already has college size and will only get stronger. He has a wide base and he is explosive. Most importantly though, he plays with a high motor and he's a fierce competitor. Those are qualities that are essential if a player wants to see the field at Florida.

**Dominique Easley**

Perhaps the most athletic interior defensive lineman in the country, Easley was absolutely unblockable in the Under Armour All-American Game and practices. He will be a great pass-rushing tackle and has the versatility to line up at end if needed.

2011 NEEDS

As much or more than any other program, Florida has to combat early NFL departures on a yearly basis. The Gators will look to replace some talented departing defensive backs, particularly at the safety position. They will also look to add some more depth at the quarterback position. Though there are some promising young linebackers already in the program, the depth will be thin following the 2010 season, so expect Florida to try to add at least a couple of linebackers.

Commitments	28
Average Stars	3.89
★★★★★	4
★★★★☆	18
★★★☆☆	5
★★☆☆☆	1
Total Stars	109
National Rank: 2	SEC: 1

THE SLEEPER

**Tyler Murphy**

With so much talent at his disposal in the Southeast, a Connecticut prospect must be special to get Urban Meyer's attention. Murphy is a two-star quarterback with a limited offer list. However, his athleticism and versatility should allow him to excel in Meyer's wide-open offense.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Gideon Ajagbe	LB	6-2	197	★★★★	Coconut Grove, FL	Ransom Everglades
Rated as the No. 86 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 33 outside linebacker...Rushed for 1,294 yards and 12 touchdowns while recording 96 tackles and seven sacks as a senior.						
Neiron Ball	DE	6-4	210	★★★★	Jackson, GA	Jackson
Rated as the No. 24 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 19 weakside defensive end...Had 104 tackles and 19 sacks as a senior...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Mack Brown	RB	5-11	185	★★★★	Lithonia, GA	Martin Luther King
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 12 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 13 running back...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						
Trey Burton	QB	6-3	203	★★★★	Venice, FL	Venice
Rated as the No. 60 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 18 dual-threat quarterback...Threw for 772 yards and six touchdowns and rushed for 494 yards as a senior...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Gerald Christian	TE	6-3	220	★★★★	West Palm Beach, FL	Dwyer
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 2 tight end...Had 21 receptions for 367 yards and three touchdowns as a senior...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Robert Clark	ATH	5-9	170	★★★	West Palm Beach, FL	Dwyer
Had 30 catches for 664 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Adrian Coxson	WR	6-2	194	★★★★	Baltimore, MD	City College High
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Maryland...Rated as the nation's No. 35 wide receiver...Participated in Maryland Crab Bowl.						
Jonathan Dowling	ATH	6-3	178	★★★★	Bradenton, FL	Southeast
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 25 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 16 athlete...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had 58 tackles and 14 interceptions in 2009.						
Quinton Dunbar	WR	6-3	170	★★★★	Miami, FL	Booker T. Washington
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 29 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 24 wide receiver...Had more than 500 receiving yards as a senior.						
Chris Dunkley	WR	5-10	164	★★★★	Pahokee, FL	Pahokee
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 12 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 9 wide receiver...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had 50 catches for 500 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2009.						
Dominique Easley	DT	6-3	258	★★★★★	Staten Island, NY	Curtis
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in New York...Rated as the nation's No. 2 defensive tackle...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had 53 tackles and 16 sacks in 2009.						
Matt Elam	DB	6-0	205	★★★★	West Palm Beach, FL	Dwyer
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 2 safety...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Sharif Floyd	DT	6-3	310	★★★★★	Philadelphia, PA	George Washington
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Pennsylvania...Rated as the nation's No. 1 defensive tackle...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Chaz Green	OL	6-6	290	★★★★	Tampa, FL	Tampa Catholic
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 6 offensive tackle...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jordan Haden	DB	6-0	198	★★★★	Fort Washington, MD	Friendly
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Maryland...Rated as the nation's No. 12 safety...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Darrin Kitchens	LB	6-3	215	★★★	Homestead, FL	Homestead
Rated as the nation's No. 71 outside linebacker by Rivals.com...Recorded 48 solo tackles, 18 sacks and 24 tackles for loss in 2008.						
Michael McFarland	TE	6-6	230	★★★	Tampa, FL	Blake
Rated as the No. 80 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 24 tight end...Also played quarterback in high school.						
Tyler Murphy	QB	6-2	190	★★	Wethersfield, CT	Wethersfield
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Connecticut by Rivals.com...Accounted for more than 30 touchdowns during his career.						
Leon Orr	DT	6-4	300	★★★★	New Port Richey, FL	Gulf
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 17 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 11 defensive tackle...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Solomon Patton	WR	5-10	175	★★★★	Mobile, AL	Murphy
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 45 wide receiver...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Ronald Powell	DE	6-4	230	★★★★★	Moreno Valley, CA	Rancho Verde
Rated as the nation's No. 1 overall prospect by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 1 weakside defensive end...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Recorded over 80 tackles and 13 sacks as a senior.						
Cody Riggs	DB	5-9	156	★★★★	FL Lauderdale, FL	St. Thomas Aquinas
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 23 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 11 cornerback...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had eight interceptions and 24 pass breakups as a senior.						
Joshua Shaw	DB	6-1	195	★★★★	Palmdale, CA	Palmdale
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 5 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 3 cornerback...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Ian Silberman	OL	6-5	257	★★★★	Fleming Island, FL	Fleming Island
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 10 offensive tackle...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Enrolled at Florida in January.						
Michael Taylor	LB	6-1	213	★★★★	Atlanta, GA	Westlake
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 3 inside linebacker...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						
Lynden Trail	DE	6-7	220	★★★★	Miami, FL	Booker T. Washington
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 22 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 7 weakside defensive end...Participated in Aloha Prep Bowl...Had 95 tackles and 22 sacks as a senior.						
Travon Van	ATH	5-11	200	★★★★	New Berlin, NY	Millford Academy
Rated at the No. 9 prep school prospect in the nation by Rivals.com...Named the 2009 Offensive MVP at Millford Academy.						
Jaylen Watkins	DB	6-1	172	★★★★	Cape Coral, FL	Cape Coral
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 4 cornerback...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Enrolled at Florida in January.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
58	Nick Alajajian	OL	6-4	295	Fr.	Naples	43	Jelani Jenkins	LB	6-0	220	Fr.	Olney, MD
89	Stephen Alli	WR	6-5	214	Fr.	Andover, NH	36	Moses Jenkins	CB	6-2	188	Sr.	Coral Springs
47	Brandon Antwine	DT	6-0	297	Sr.	Garland, TX	57	Carl Johnson	OL	6-5	360	Sr.	Durham, NC
48	Neiron Ball	NT	6-2	214	Fr.	Jackson, GA	93	Kedric Johnson	DE	6-4	230	Fr.	Palmetto
54	Brendan Beal	LB	6-3	246	So.	Bangor, PA	57	Samuel Johnson	DE	6-1	266	So.	Eureka
61	Gary Beemer	OL	5-11	265	Sr.	Valrico	16	A.J. Jones	LB	6-1	226	Sr.	Tampa, FL
86	Phillip Bellino	RB	5-11	209	Fr.	Boca Raton	64	Kyle Koehne	C	6-5	300	Fr.	Indianapolis, IN
31	Brian Biada	CB	5-8	168	Fr.	Naples	18	T.J. Lawrence	WR	6-1	193	So.	Lakeland
35	Ahmad Black	S	5-9	189	Sr.	Lakeland	44	Duke Lemmens	DE	6-3	253	Sr.	Westlake Village, CA
20	Thaddeus Blue		5-11	209	Fr.	Miami	40	David Lerner	P	5-11	209	So.	Gainesville
52	Jonathan Bostic	LB	6-1	236	So.	Wellington	53	Gerry Marseille	DL	6-2	222	Fr.	Miami
12	John Brantley	QB	6-3	218	Jr.	Ocala	90	Lawrence Marsh	NT	6-5	288	Sr.	Augusta, GA
28	Jeremy Brown	CB	5-10	182	So.	Orlando	34	Lerentee McCray	DE	6-2	240	Jr.	Ocala
98	Zachary Brust	K	6-1	168	Jr.	Jacksonville	44	Ean McQuay	DB	5-8	179	Jr.	Havana
13	Trey Burton	QB	6-2	219	Fr.	Venice	21	Emmanuel Moody	RB	5-11	212	Sr.	Coppell, TX
27	Adrian Bushell	CB	5-8	183	So.	DeSoto, TX	9	Carl Moore	WR	6-3	222	Sr.	Roseville, CA
42	Miguel Carodine	DB	5-10	210	Sr.	Gainesville	73	Xavier Nixon	OL	6-5	300	So.	Fayetteville, NC
32	Gerald Christian	TE	6-3	240	Fr.	Palm Beach Gardens	91	Earl Okine	DE	6-6	280	So.	Gainesville
81	Robert Clark	WR/KR	5-8	172	Fr.	Palm Beach Gardens	68	Leon Orr	DT	6-4	324	Fr.	New Port Richey
34	Tim Clark	CB	5-9	193	Fr.	Wellborn	80	Desmond Parks	TE	6-4	238	Fr.	Greer SC
47	John Crofoot	LS	5-11	147	Fr.	Windemere	71	Matt Patchan	OL	6-6	273	Jr.	Tampa
4	Andre Debose	WR	5-11	183	Fr.	Sanford	83	Solomon Patton	WR	5-8	171	Fr.	Mobile, AL
2	Jeffery Demps	RB	5-8	184	Jr.	Winter Garden	32	Scott Peek	LB	6-1	216	So.	Tampa
26	Lorenzo Edwards	LB	6-1	246	Sr.	Orlando	87	Josh Postell	WR	6-5	210	So.	Atlanta, GA
22	Matt Elam	S	5-10	204	Fr.	Palm Beach Gardens	55	Mike Pouncey	C	6-4	310	So.	Lakeland
24	Josh Evans	S	6-1	191	So.	Irvington, NJ	45	T.J. Pridemore	FB	6-1	247	So.	Gainesville, GA
13	Dee Finley	LB	6-2	208	So.	Auburn, AL	3	Chris Rainey	WR/RB	5-9	176	Jr.	Lakeland
76	Marcus Gilbert	OL	6-5	322	Sr.	Fort Lauderdale, FL	11	Jordan Reed	TE	6-3	240	Fr.	New London, CT
63	Cole Gilliam	OL	6-4	311	Fr.	Orlando	50	Sam Robey	C	6-4	293	So.	Louisville, KY
23	Mike Gillislee	RB	5-11	191	So.	DeLand	46	Michael Ross	LB	5-11	222	So.	Boca Raton
96	William Green	DE	6-3	250	Jr.	Hoover, AL	37	Brandon Sanders	CB	5-9	188	Fr.	Ocala
58	Christopher Guido	LS	6-2	223	Fr.	Altamonte Springs	92	Terron Sanders	DT	6-1	312	Sr.	Bradenton
39	Jordan Haden	S	5-11	198	Fr.	Fort Washington, MD	70	Shawn Schmieder	OL	6-4	272	Sr.	Jacksonville
67	Jon Halapio	OL	6-3	305	Fr.	St. Petersburg	29	Joshua Shaw	CB	6-0	189	Fr.	Palmdale, CA
85	Frankie Hammond, Jr.	WR	5-11	178	So.	Hollywood	77	Ian Silberman	OL	6-4	271	Fr.	Orange Park
50	Cody Hampton	LS	5-11	215	So.	St. Petersburg	60	William Steinmann	OL	6-5	272	Jr.	Daytona Beach
72	Jonathon Harrison	OL	6-3	305	Fr.	Groveland	86	Eric Strack	K	5-10	167	Fr.	Palm City
23	Corey Henderson	CB	6-0	170	So.	St. Petersburg	19	Caleb Sturgis	K	5-10	192	Jr.	St. Augustine
17	Chas Henry	P	6-3	222	Sr.	Dallas, GA	6	Deonte Thompson	WR	5-11	203	Jr.	Belle Glade
40	Brandon Hicks	LB	6-2	228	Sr.	Jacksonville	94	Justin Trattou	DE	6-3	252	Sr.	Ramsey, NJ
10	Will Hill	S	6-1	204	Jr.	West Orange, NJ	14	Jaylen Watkins	CB	5-11	180	Fr.	Cape Coral
82	Omaris Hines	WR	6-0	219	So.	Coriscana, TX	65	Glen Watson	DL	6-2	299	So.	Pensacola
6	Jaye Howard	DT	6-3	295	Jr.	Apopka	42	Steven Wilks	FB	6-1	235	Jr.	Lakeland
99	Omar Hunter	DT	6-0	307	So.	Buford, GA	7	Justin Williams	WR	6-0	205	Sr.	Folkston, GA
74	Maurice Hurt	OL	6-3	320	Sr.	Milledgeville, GA	66	James Wilson	OL	6-3	315	Jr.	St. Augustine
48	Jonathan James	LB	5-11	214	Fr.	Orlando	78	David Young	OL	6-4	304	So.	Edwardsville, IL
1	Janoris Jenkins	CB	5-11	186	Jr.	Pahokee							

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
T. Tebow	7	164.17	213	314	5	67.8	2895	21	80	206.8
J. Brantley	7	194.88	36	48	0	75.0	410	7	33	58.6

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
A. Hernandez	14	68	850	12.5	5	64	60.7
R. Cooper	14	51	961	18.8	9	80	68.6
D. Nelson	14	25	291	11.6	2	30	20.8

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
T. Tebow	14	217	1088	178	910	4.2	14	55	65.0
J. Demps	14	99	763	18	745	7.5	7	62	53.2
C. Rainey	14	89	595	20	575	6.5	5	76	41.1

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: R. Stamper 78, A. Black 70, B. Spikes 68
 Tackles for loss: J. Cunningham 12, C. Dunlap 10.5, B. Spikes 6.5
 Sacks: C. Dunlap 9, J. Cunningham 7, B. Hicks 4
 Interceptions: J. Haden 4, M. Wright 3, A. Jones 3

Tim Tebow is gone and replacement **John Brantley** is a pocket passer, but the Gators have not abandoned the single wing element of their offense.

Backup quarterback **Trey Burton** proved in the spring game that he's capable of running the ball (team-high 123 yards and two touchdowns). He also threw for 120 yards and one touchdown. Tight end **Jordan Reed**, a former quarterback, worked out of the Wildcat formation and added 19 yards on three carries to go along with 80 yards and one touchdown passing.

"First day of spring he was typical freshman," coach **Urban Meyer** said of Burton.

"By the end of the spring, he was managing the huddle. Throwing the ball is one-fifth of being a quarterback. ... His first day of spring was not very good. His last day of spring was very good."

Brantley threw for 201 yards and two touchdowns in the spring game.

• Meyer has been mostly noncommittal about what he did during his (much shorter than anyone anticipated) leave of absence, but he did admit that he met with Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski, who also took a leave of absence in 1995 because of health reasons.

"I think the biggest thing I learned from him without getting into much detail is he surrounded himself with a little pack of people that he really trusts," Meyer said.

"If you look at his staff, they are all former players and he can do that because it's a small staff. And I think that's important, just surround you, get that little foxhole mentality with the guys that care about you and you care about them."

• Receiver **Andre Debose** was supposed to be the second coming of Percy Harvin in 2009, but a severe hamstring injury and subsequent surgery ended his freshman season just days after practices began.

He finally returned to full participation in the final week of spring practice and caught a pair of passes for 30 yards in the spring game. The coaching staff is optimistic he'll be 100 percent in the fall.

"He's a heck of a player, fast as can be," Brantley said. "I'm just happy to see him back out here running around."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• **On Florida's style:** "Don't let anybody kid you about Florida up front, they're physical. No matter what they call it, the spread offense, they're a veer offense. And you better have your chin strap buckled when you play Florida because they'll be physical. But I think they'll get away from running the veer (without Tim Tebow)."

• **On the possibility of winning the East without Tebow:** "If you had the Tennessee of '98 or the Georgia of five years ago, then you'd say it's hard to do it again. But it appears the SEC East is the weaker side at this moment. The biggest thing with Florida is they lost so many coaches. Coaching continuity is key."



John Brantley

Photo by Tomasso DeRosa

It's a little more unsettled at end, where Justin Trattou (seven career sacks) is the only proven pass rusher, and there will be some pressure on Ronald Powell — Rivals.com's No. 1 ranked recruit — to play significantly. Line coach Dan McCarney raved about Duke Lemmens' improvement in the spring.

"He's always been a relentless guy, a good effort guy, but he's made more plays in the spring than he probably has in his three-year career," McCarney said.

"Trattou was a much better player than Duke Lemmens coming out the last game we played. Not so fast, anymore. I'd flip a coin on those two kids. That's how much he improved."

The only question in the secondary is the starting field cornerback spot. Jeremy Brown (who missed all of last season with a back injury), Moses Jenkins and early enrollee Joshua Shaw will battle for the job.

Janoris Jenkins is the boundary corner and Ahmad Black and Will Hill are the safeties. Meyer once said Black was too slow to play on defense, but safeties coach Chuck Heater called Black, who has eight career interceptions, one of the smartest players he has ever coached. That makes up for Black's lack of speed and size (5-9, 189 pounds).

"Some guys run fast, some guys are big, some guys jump — that's all great, it all can help you," Heater said. "But some guys have got a pretty good football quotient and in his case, he does."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Florida has to replace Brandon James as a returner. Several players will get a chance.

Chris Rainey and Janoris Jenkins lead the list of punt returners, but Andre Debose may get a chance if his hamstring is 100 percent in the fall.

Jenkins give the Gators a rotation of players who can play inside and outside. The group worked a lot on pass-rush drills in the spring and may be counted on heavily for quarterback pressure because of a lack of proven players at end.

The tackle spots are deep behind starters Lawrence Marsh and Terron Sanders and could get even deeper if big-time recruits Dominique Easley and Shariff Floyd prove they are able to play right away.

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Jeff Demps

Demps ran the fastest time in the world — at the time — in the 100 meters in the spring (10.11 seconds). ... Despite his size (5-8, 184 pounds), he is a good between-the-tackles runner. ... Has 1,350 yards and 14 rushing touchdowns in his career. ... Ran for 745 yards and seven touchdowns in '09, averaging 7.5 yards per carry. ... Averaged 7.8 yards per carry in '08 as a freshman.



EMERGING STAR

LB Jelani Jenkins

Played in just two games and had two tackles last season, but won a starting job in the spring. ... Jelani means "mighty" in Swahili. He's not that big (6-0, 200) but has good speed (4.4 40-yard dash) and can play outside and inside. ... Was the Maryland Gatorade Player of the Year in 2007 and 2008 after totaling 130 tackles in those two seasons. ... Rivals.com's No. 10 overall prospect in 2008.



TOP NEWCOMER

S Matt Elam

Enrolled early and was so impressive in the spring that coach Urban Meyer guaranteed playing time. ... He rose to first-team nickel back and earned a spot on every special teams unit. ... Made more than 200 tackles and had 15 sacks in his final two seasons in high school. ... Also ran for 1,883 yards and 27 touchdowns in his career, including 918 yards and 13 scores as a senior.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	42.5	3
Rushing	200.2	23
Passing	257.0	38
Total	457.2	4

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.5	46
Rushing	103.3	10
Passing	258.5	98
Total	361.8	41

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+5	+0.4	32

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	45.15	3
Rushing	229.7	11
Passing	212.6	62
Total	442.4	17

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	12.9	4
Rushing	105.4	15
Passing	174.0	16
Total	279.3	8

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+22	+1.69	2

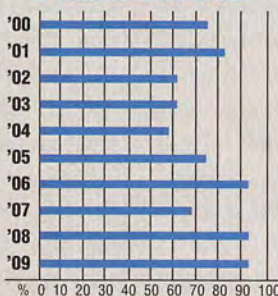
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	35.8	10
Rushing	221.8	10
Passing	236.1	41
Total	457.8	6

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	12.4	4
Rushing	99.8	12
Passing	152.8	2
Total	252.6	4

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+7	+0.5	24

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

13-1, 8-1

W	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	62-3
W	TROY	56-6
W	TENNESSEE	23-13
W	at Kentucky	41-7
W	at LSU	13-3
W	ARKANSAS	23-20
W	at Mississippi State	29-19
W	GEORGIA	41-17
W	VANDERBILT	27-3
W	at South Carolina	24-14
W	FIU	62-3
W	FLORIDA STATE	37-10
L	SEC Championship Game vs. Alabama	13-32
W	Sugar Bowl vs. Cincinnati	51-24

Player Profile



Photo by Tyler Kaufman/Icon SMI

Justin Trattou

Gators' Captain Can Shoulder the Load

The lump isn't as pronounced as it was last season, and it doesn't hurt anymore, either. So Justin Trattou rarely thinks about the injury to his left arm.

Only when someone brings it up does he remember tearing part of his biceps muscle from his shoulder during Florida's Oct. 17 game against Arkansas. That's when he goes through his standard speech about how it wasn't a big deal and that he really doesn't need the entire muscle, anyway.

"It won't ever grow back," the senior defensive end says with a shrug.

"It'll just scar over and I'll just have to

deal with it. ... Statistics say you get, like, 95 percent of your strength back without surgery, so there's really no need. It just gets stronger. My other muscles take over."

Trattou suffered the injury when he took a hit on his left shoulder against the Razorbacks. He felt a pop, which was the tearing of one of the two tendons that attach the biceps muscle to the shoulder.

Since he tore only one tendon, Trattou just needed some rest and treatment for the swelling and inflammation. He will need surgery if he tears the other one.

Still, doctors told him he would be out 4-6 weeks.

Trattou was back in two, missing only the Mississippi State game and playing the final seven games with essentially one arm. That earned him even more respect from his teammates and cemented his spot as the defense's leader heading into the 2010 season.

"Man, it looked bad," senior center Mike Pouncey said. "Everything was just hanging off. He worked it back to get it back to where it needed to be. That's why he's a captain this year."

He's also Florida's only proven pass rusher. The 6-3, 252-pounder has seven career sacks — the most of any returning player — and is the first option to fill the void vacated by ends Carlos Dunlap and Jermaine Cunningham, who combined for 39 career sacks.

"We lost two of the best pass rushers in college football, so he's got to step it up," defensive line coach Dan McCarney said. "All those guys do."

Trattou is taking it personally, though, because he doesn't want the Gators to slip from atop the East Division. Just because UF lost 11 key players from last year's team doesn't mean the Gators are headed for a four-loss season.

"Anyone who is in their right mind is going to say it's a rebuilding year," Trattou said. "But that's our goal; to make sure it's not."

Rainey also worked as a kick returner in the spring, but Jeff Demps — who didn't participate in the spring because he was running track — and Mike Gillislee also are in the mix.

Chas Henry enters his fourth year as the Gators' punter. His career average of 42.1 yards per punt is fifth in school history.

Kicker Caleb Sturgis has a big leg — he kicked a 56-yard field goal against Georgia, the second-longest in school history — but has struggled with consistency (22 of 30, 73.3 percent in 2009).

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The schedule is beefed up a bit from last season with the addition of South Florida and Appalachian State, which won three consecutive Football Championship Sub-division national titles (2005-07) and upset Michigan to open the 2007 season.

The toughest test is defending national champion Alabama in Tuscaloosa on Oct. 2. The Gators were embarrassed in their last trip there (a 31-3 loss in 2005).

LSU (Oct. 9), Mississippi State (Oct. 16) and South Carolina (Nov. 13) are key home games. The Gators wrap up the regular season at Florida State. UF has won six in a row over the Seminoles by an average of 21.8 points and has won three in a row in Tallahassee, dating back to a 20-13 upset in 2004 in coach Ron Zook's final game.

—Michael DiRocco

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	MIAMI (OH)	1-11
Sept. 11	USF	8-5
Sept. 18	at Tennessee	7-6
Sept. 25	KENTUCKY	7-6
Oct. 2	at Alabama	14-0
Oct. 9	LSU	9-4
Oct. 16	MISSISSIPPI STATE	5-7
Oct. 30	vs. GEORGIA (Jacksonville)	8-5
Nov. 6	at Vanderbilt	2-10
Nov. 13	SOUTH CAROLINA	7-6
Nov. 20	APPALACHIAN STATE	11-3
Nov. 27	at Florida State	7-6



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BULLDOGS

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OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Bobo

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Grantham

STADIUM: Sanford Stadium: 92,746

AT A GLANCE

2009

8-5, 4-4 SEC (T-2nd, East)

COACH

Mark Richt — At Georgia and overall:
90-27, 9 years

RETURNING STARTERS

17; 10 offense, 5 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

RB Washaun Ealey, WR A.J. Green,
DE Demarcus Dobbs, SS Bacarri Rambo,
P Drew Butler, K Blair Walsh

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

There's plenty of experience on offense, including a strong running game with Ealey and Caleb King. Green is one of the most gifted receivers in the country. The kicking tandem of Butler and Walsh probably is the nation's best.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The new aggressive 3-4 defensive scheme will have the potential to make big plays — or give them up. While there's talent at quarterback, all the candidates are unproven.

KEY LOSSES

LB Rennie Curran, DT Geno Atkins,
DT Jeff Owens

OVERVIEW

The Bulldogs might be the sleeper in the conference with a new quarterback and completely overhauled defense. While some observers believe the program peaked two years ago, there's still plenty of talent on both sides of the ball. Whether there's enough talent to catch Florida in the East is questionable.

Dawgs Cookin' Up Comeback with 'Very Good Ingredients'

In the aftermath of the most turbulent season of Mark Richt's tenure at Georgia, much was made of the sweeping changes on the defensive staff.

Indeed, it was significant that Richt fired his long-time friend and colleague, Willie Martinez, and brought in Todd Grantham as defensive coordinator, along with two other defensive assistants.

The moves were not just a change in personnel but also in tactic, as Grantham has installed an aggressive 3-4 scheme designed to create game-changing big plays.

But Richt made another critical change — seemingly more subtle, but ultimately perhaps even more profound. This change came from within. Richt took a hard look at a troubling trend for increasing penalties and turnovers and fewer takeaways. He heeded the criticism that the Bulldogs had become undisciplined.

"People look at the penalties and turnovers and say that's a sign of not being disciplined, and I would agree," Richt said.

"We must cut down. We must not be the most penalized team in the league and have the worst turnover ratio and expect to win. It's not going to happen. If we just improve those two areas, we're going to be a much better football team. ... Now, we've got to keep from shooting ourselves in the foot."

When it comes to foot-shooting, that's the one statistical area in which the Dawgs have led the SEC. They ranked 118th out of 120 teams last year in turnover margin, 113th in fewest penalties per game and 107th in fewest penalty yards.

It represents a troubling trend. It was their sixth consecutive season in which the Dawgs slid closer to the bottom in penalty ranking.

With all the mistakes and an 8-5 finish — Georgia's worst in nine years under

Richt — it's easy to think the program is on the decline. Not to be forgotten is the fact that the Dawgs have consistently ranked in the top 10 nationally in recruiting.

Bottom line: There's not a sudden dearth of talent in Athens.

"I think we've got very good ingredients," Richt said.

"We've got guys who really care and are at least trying to do what the coaches are asking them to do. If we keep trying to cultivate that, get these guys to truly understand what we're doing and play disciplined, I think we've got a chance to challenge for the Eastern Division. I don't think there's any doubt about that."

OFFENSE

Whether it's Aaron Murray or Logan Gray, whoever ultimately wins the starting quarterback job will have plenty of help to make the transition easier. There are starters back at every other position on offense, in some cases multiple starters at one position.

Tight end is great example. Aron White was the starter last year and played well. Bruce Figgins, who's back after missing last year with an injury, started at tight end the year before. But sophomore Orson Charles is the best receiver of the bunch and has improved his blocking enough to win the starting job.

Of course, it helps that the quarterbacks also have one of the best receivers in college football, A.J. Green.

He caught 53 passes last year despite being limited to eight starts due to injuries. The numbers were especially impressive, given that early in the season, there was little doubt who quarterback Joe Cox was going to in clutch situations.

Green will have a little more help this year. Kris Durham returns after missing



Justin Houston Photo by Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images



Caleb King

last season due to injury, which helps offset losing Michael Moore. Sophomores Tavarres King and Rantavious Wooten appear ready to break out after getting their feet wet in the SEC last year. Junior Israel Troupe is another talented receiver who is emerging.

For the last two years, the Bulldogs have been hammered with injuries on the offensive line. The silver lining is that the injuries forced them to develop depth across the front.

"If we stay healthy, the offensive line will be a strength," Richt said.

"But I'm not going to predict that because every time I do, somebody goes down. We've had a hard time keeping these guys healthy. But it did give us the opportunity to play other guys."

Left guard Cordy Glenn was the team's offensive MVP for the spring. Clint Boling is set at left tackle and Ben Jones at center. Richt pointed to the midseason

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Aaron Murray	Fr.	Slight edge over more experienced Logan Gray.	Logan Gray, Jr.
RB	Washaun Ealey	So.	Followed productive 2nd half with great spring.	Caleb King, Jr.*
FB	Shaun Chapas*	Sr.	Excellent lead blocker; hard-nosed player.	Fred Munzenmaier, Sr.
WR	A.J. Green*	Jr.	Is there a more talented receiver anywhere?	Rantavious Wooten, So.
WR	Tavarres King*	So.	Showed flashes of great ability last year.	Kris Durham, Sr.
TE	Orson Charles	So.	Great receiver and improved blocker.	Aron White, Jr.*
LT	Clint Boling*	Sr.	Moves back to RT if Sturdivant can start.	Trinton Sturdivant, Jr.
LG	Cordy Glenn*	Jr.	Voted Offensive MVP for spring.	Dallas Lee, Fr.
C	Ben Jones*	Jr.	Third-year starter was second-team All-SEC.	Chris Burnette, Fr.
RG	Chris Davis*	Sr.	Consistent performer has plenty of experience.	Tanner Strickland, Jr.
RT	Josh Davis*	Sr.	His midseason return keyed running game surge.	Kolton Houston, Fr.
K	Blair Walsh*	Jr.	All-SEC kicker was 22 of 24 on field goals.	Brandon Bogotay, Jr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Abry Jones	So.	Played in all but one game as a freshman	Brandon Wood, Sr.
NT	DeAngelo Tyson	Jr.	Big run stopper plugs up the middle	Kwame Geathers, Fr.
DE	Demarcus Dobbs	Sr.	Rush specialist had 4.5 sacks and 18 hurries	Kiante Tripp, Sr.
LB	Justin Houston*	Jr.	7.5 sacks, 18 hurries and 15 tackles for loss	Reuben Faloughi, Fr.
LB	Akeem Dent*	Sr.	Veteran takes over as leader in the middle	Michael Gilliard, So.
LB	Christian Robinson	So.	Strong spring won job over senior Gamble	Marcus Dowtin, Jr.
LB	Cornelius Washington	So.	Had 15 QB hurries and four sacks as a reserve	Darryl Gamble, Sr.*
CB	Brandon Boykin*	Jr.	Explosive KR gets bigger role on defense	Branden Smith, So.
CB	Vance Cuff	Sr.	Most Improved defensive player in spring	Sanders Commings, So.
SS	Nick Williams	Jr.	Converted LB offers strong run support	Quintin Banks, Jr.
FS	Bacarri Rambo*	So.	Fan favorite was a playmaker as a freshman	Jakar Hamilton, Jr.
P	Drew Butler*	Jr.	All-America led country with 48.1 yard avg.	Blair Walsh, Jr.

*Returning Starter

returns of Chris Davis at right guard and Josh Davis at right tackle as a key reason the running game finally clicked.

Trinton Sturdivant, who has missed the last two years with knee injuries, is expected to return and push someone for a starting job.

Caleb King and Washaun Ealey might be the second-best tandem of running backs in the SEC behind Alabama's Mark Ingram and Trent Richardson. In fact, Ealey's production was very similar to Richardson.

"Washaun and Caleb both, you can just see the energy from them because they're competing, and they also enjoy each other's company, practicing in such a way that gives you a lot of confidence," Richt said.

DEFENSE

Richt was impressed not only by new defensive coordinator Todd Grantham's

career accomplishments, but also by his training. Grantham learned under some of the best — Frank Beamer at Virginia Tech, Nick Saban at Michigan State and Romeo Crennel with the Cleveland Browns.

"He's been on the cutting edge of football," Richt said. "He's been around a lot of people that really understand defenses. He's a very intelligent guy. He's a really good communicator, a good teacher. He's got a presence about him that I really like."

Grantham installed more than a new defensive scheme. He also brought in a new level of energy that was noticeable in practices.

The new scheme will be more aggressive than what Georgia has been accustomed to. With the 3-4, the fourth rusher can come from just about anywhere.

"Our guys are really excited not just about the fact that we're going to pressure



Jakar Hamilton

Coming from the junior college ranks, Hamilton will be physically and mentally ready to play right away in Athens. He is also helped by being an early enrollee. His physicality and athleticism are factors that should make Hamilton an impact defender in the SEC.



Alec Ogletree

Ogletree comes to Georgia as a safety prospect that could realistically develop into an outside linebacker. He is a head-hunter in the run game, but is deceptively comfortable in coverage as well. His athleticism should allow him to excel at whatever position he plays.



T.J. Stripling

The move to a 3-4 defense at Georgia couldn't have benefited anyone more than it does Stripling. He is unique physically with a wiry frame, a slim waste and scary pass-rushing ability. His thin frame makes him a 'tweener as a defensive end with his hand down, but the ability and athleticism to play a hybrid role could allow him to see the field very early.

2011 NEEDS

With the likely departure of AJ Green to the NFL — and after missing on a few prospects in 2010 — wide receiver will be a big priority. The Bulldogs will look to sign at least four wideouts in the 2011 class. Georgia will head into 2011 with four cornerbacks on the roster, so expect cornerbacks to be in demand. Outside of that, look for Georgia to add some linebackers to its new 3-4 defense and some offensive tackle depth as well.

Commitments	19
Average Stars	3.42
★★★★★	0
★★★★☆	9
★★★☆☆	9
★★☆☆☆	1
Total Stars	65
National Rank: 15	SEC: 6



Hutson Mason

It's hard to believe that Mason was able to hold onto the sleeper label after passing for a Georgia state record of 4,582 yards as a senior. Somehow, he wasn't as highly sought-after as many other quarterbacks. After accepting a late offer from Georgia, Mason could be the steal of the class.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	HT	WT	Stars	Hometown	School
Demetre Baker	LB	6-0	200	★★★★	Orange Park, FL	Orange Park
Rated as the No. 63 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 25 outside linebacker...Had more than 70 tackles with 11 sacks, 19 tackles for loss and two interceptions as a senior while rushing for 1,040 yards and 13 touchdowns.						
Brent Benedict	OL	6-5	278	★★★★★	Jacksonville, FL	Bolles
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 12 offensive tackle...Selected to participate in the Under Armour All-American Game.						
Michael Bennett	WR	6-3	186	★★★★	Alpharetta, GA	Alpharetta
Rated as the No. 33 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 55 wide receiver...Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Game...Caught 52 passes for 645 yards and seven touchdowns as senior.						
Brandon Burrows	DE	6-3	240	★★★★	Marietta, GA	Walton
Rated as the No. 50 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 28 strongside defensive end...Missed senior season due to ACL injury suffered during spring practice.						
Marc Deas	DB	6-0	185	★★★★	Kissimmee, FL	Osceola
Rated as the No. 93 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 51 safety...Had 54 tackles and one interception as a senior...Recorded 108 tackles as a junior.						
Jalen Fields	DE	6-5	250	★★★★★	Dalton, GA	Dalton
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 14 strongside defensive end...Recorded 63 tackles and one interception as a senior...Had 78 tackles, eight sacks and 35 tackles for loss as a junior.						
Kenarious Gates	OL	6-5	300	★★★★	Greenville, GA	Greenville
Helped lead team to 11-1 record and into the second round of the GHSA playoffs in 2009...Also played basketball at Greenville High School.						
Jakar Hamilton	DB	6-2	196	★★★★★	Milledgeville, GA	Georgia Military
Rated as the nation's No. 2 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Recorded 88 tackles and six interceptions during his career at GMC...Enrolled at Georgia in January.						
Kotton Houston	OL	6-5	270	★★★★	Buford, GA	Buford
Rated as the No. 45 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 23 offensive guard...Helped lead Buford to its third consecutive Class AA state championship in 2009...Enrolled at Georgia in January.						
Ken Malcome	RB	6-0	213	★★★★★	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb
Rated as the No. 23 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 24 running back...Rushed for 1,168 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior...Chose Georgia over Florida.						

Name	Pos	HT	WT	Stars	Hometown	School
Hutson Mason	QB	6-3	190	★★★★	Marietta, GA	Lassiter
Rated as the No. 75 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Set Georgia state records for passing yards (4,560) and touchdowns (54) in a season as a senior...Helped lead Lassiter to 12-1 record and first region championship in school history in 2009.						
Dexter Morant	DE	6-7	240	★★★★★	Manning, SC	Manning
Rated as the No. 12 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 15 strongside defensive end...Recorded 80 tackles, nine sacks and 25 tackles for loss as a senior...Had over 100 tackles with 10 sacks and 20 tackles for loss as a junior...Recorded 86 tackles and 17 tackles for loss as a sophomore.						
Alec Ogletree	DB	6-3	210	★★★★★	Newnan, GA	Newnan
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 3 safety...Participated in the Under Armour All-American Game...Had 85 tackles and two interceptions as a senior.						
Alexander Ogletree	RB	5-9	205	★★★★	Newnan, GA	Newnan
Had 90 tackles, 11 tackles for loss and two sacks as a senior...Twin brother of fellow Georgia signee Alec Ogletree.						
Lonnie Outlaw	WR	6-6	200	★★★	Rochelle, GA	Wilcox County
Helped lead Wilcox County to 2009 Class A state title game...Caught 41 passes for 829 yards and six touchdowns as a senior.						
Derek Owens	DB	5-11	180	★★★★	Jacksonville, FL	Andrew Jackson
Rated as the No. 51 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 27 cornerback...Had 20 career interceptions...Chose Georgia over Florida, Miami and South Carolina.						
Garrison Smith	DT	6-4	250	★★★★★	Atlanta, GA	Douglass
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 6 defensive tackle...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Had 80 tackles, 20 tackles for loss and 10 sacks as a senior.						
T.J. Stripling	DE	6-6	215	★★★★★	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 4 weakside defensive end...Had 117 tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 21 sacks as a senior.						
Mike Thornton	DT	6-2	280	★★★★★	Stone Mountain, GA	Stephenson
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 15 defensive tackle...Had 78 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and six sacks as a senior...Helped lead Stephenson to an 11-1 record in 2009.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
27	Cameron Allen	LB	6-1	215	So.	Canton	93	Abry Jones	DT	6-3	290	So.	Warner Robins
79	Justin Anderson	RG	6-5	330	Jr.	Ocala	61	Ben Jones	C	6-3	300	Jr.	Centreville, AL
31	Quintin Banks	SS	6-2	208	Sr.	Warner Robins	4	Caleb King	TB	5-11	212	Jr.	Norcross
65	John Bodin	OL	6-6	300	So.	Covington	12	Tavarres King	SE	6-1	184	So.	Mount Airy
32	Brandon Bogotay	K	6-3	214	Jr.	San Diego, CA	23	Greg Lanier	WR	6-1	188	Fr.	Clarksville
60	Clint Boling	LT	6-5	310	Sr.	Alpharetta	59	Kevin Lanier	FB	5-11	212	So.	Woodstock
2	Brandon Boykin	SC	5-10	185	Jr.	Fayetteville	64	Dallas Lee	C	6-4	300	Fr.	Buford
3	Taylor Bradberry	FLK	6-3	197	So.	Winder	73	Austin Long	OL	6-5	295	Fr.	Memphis, TN
45	Brian Brewer	RB	5-10	204	Sr.	Lilburn	53	Jeremy Longo	DL/LB	6-3	253	So.	Fl. Lauderdale, FL
15	Marlon Brown	SE	6-5	219	So.	Memphis, TN	85	Derrick Lott	DT	6-4	295	Fr.	Kennesaw
68	Chris Burnette	OL	6-2	290	Fr.	LaGrange	10	Jordan Love	C	6-0	184	Fr.	Glen Allen, VA
13	Drew Butler	P	6-2	207	Jr.	Duluth	88	Arthur Lynch	TE	6-5	254	So.	Dartmouth, MA
49	Shaun Chapas	FB	6-2	242	Sr.	St. Augustine, FL	25	Rhett McGowan	WR	6-0	185	Fr.	Calhoun
7	Orson Charles	TE	6-3	235	So.	Tampa, FL	48	Fred Munzenmaier	FB	6-2	235	Sr.	Norcross
19	Sanders Commings	CB	6-2	210	So.	Augusta	11	Aaron Murray	QB	6-1	209	Fr.	Tampa, FL
25	Vance Cuff	CB	5-11	177	Sr.	Moultrie	16	Josh Murray	SS	6-2	204	Sr.	Tampa, FL
63	Chris Davis	RG	6-4	300	Sr.	Jefferson	37	Cortney Newmans	TB	5-9	223	Jr.	Macon
78	Josh Davis	RT	6-6	310	Sr.	Jayess, MS	67	Jonathan Owens	LG	6-4	300	So.	Blountsville, AL
64	Matthew DeGenova	DE	6-1	225	Jr.	Kenner, LA	55	Josh Parrish	OL	6-4	303	So.	Norcross
51	Akeem Dent	LB	6-2	234	Sr.	Atlanta	29	Makiri Pugh	FS	6-0	201	So.	Charlotte, NC
98	Trent Dittmer	P	5-9	185	Sr.	Cartersville	18	Bacarri Rambo	SS	6-0	211	So.	Donalsonville
58	Demarcus Dobbs	DL/LB	6-2	285	Sr.	Savannah	58	Ben Reynolds	OL	6-2	250	Fr.	Bainbridge
38	Marcus Dowtin	MLB	6-2	220	Jr.	Upper Marlboro, MD	86	Derek Rich	TE	6-5	263	Sr.	Gainesville
28	Corey Dunson	DB	6-0	192	Fr.	Albany	45	Christian Robinson	LB	6-2	211	So.	Norcross
16	Kris Durham	SE	6-5	211	Sr.	Calhoun	39	Dustin Royston	RB	5-11	226	Fr.	Royston
3	Washaun Ealey	RB	5-11	211	So.	Stillmore	19	Craig Sager	WR	6-2	201	Sr.	Marietta
97	Scott Eichler	PK	5-11	185	Fr.	Oakwood	13	Blake Sailors	WR	5-11	185	Fr.	Athens
87	Elliott	CB	5-9	186	Jr.	Kennesaw	44	Josh Sailors	FB	5-9	230	Jr.	Athens
95	Reuben Faloughi	DE	6-5	240	Fr.	Martinez	22	Richard Samuel	LB	6-2	232	Jr.	Cartersville
89	Bruce Figgins	TE	6-4	266	Jr.	Columbus	1	Branden Smith	CB	5-11	172	So.	Atlanta
86	Nick Franks	TE	6-2	250	Jr.	Midway	84	Jordan Stowe	PK	6-5	222	So.	Lilburn
69	Ty Frix	SN	6-0	207	So.	Calhoun	54	Tanner Strickland	LG	6-5	322	Jr.	Nashville
90	Darryl Gamble	LB	6-2	255	Sr.	Bainbridge	77	Trinton Sturdivant	LT	6-5	320	Jr.	Wadesboro, NC
59	Kwame Geathers	DT	6-6	310	Fr.	Georgetown, SC	30	Carlton Thomas	TB	5-7	176	So.	Frostproof, FL
35	Michael Gilliard	LB	6-2	220	So.	Valdosta	75	Kiante Tripp	DL/LB	6-6	290	Sr.	Atlanta
71	Cordy Glenn	LG	6-5	330	Jr.	Riverdale	28	Israel Troupe	FLK	6-1	215	Jr.	Tifton
47	Chad Gloer	CB	5-10	191	Sr.	Fayetteville	94	DeAngelo Tyson	DT	6-2	295	Jr.	Statesboro
6	Logan Gray	QB	6-2	195	Jr.	Columbia, MO	36	Wes Van Dyk	RB	6-0	205	Jr.	Highland Park, TX
8	A.J. Green	FLK	6-4	205	Jr.	Summerville, SC	33	Chase Vasser	LB	6-3	220	Fr.	Gainesville
48	Jackson Griffith	LB	6-2	196	So.	Gainesville	49	Jason Veal	LB	5-11	223	So.	Lilburn
23	Jakar Hamilton	S	6-2	200	Jr.	Edgeville, SC	57	Blair Walsh	PK	5-10	191	Jr.	Boca Raton, FL
76	Ben Harden	RG	6-3	310	Jr.	Perry	83	Cornelius Washington	DL/LB	6-4	255	So.	Hephzibah
70	A.J. Harmon	LT	6-5	310	So.	Louisville	81	Aron White	TE	6-4	237	Jr.	Columbia, MO
37	Akeem Hebron	LB	6-1	227	Sr.	Gaithersburg, MD	43	Charles White	FB	6-1	221	Jr.	Columbia, SC
42	Justin Houston	DL/LB	6-3	260	Jr.	Statesboro	39	Nick Williams	LB	6-2	218	Jr.	Bainbridge
66	Kolton Houston	OL	6-5	280	Fr.	Buford	36	Shawn Williams	CB	6-1	206	So.	Damascus
27	Dontavius Jackson	TB	5-10	201	So.	Franklin	97	Brandon Wood	DT	6-1	285	Sr.	Buchanan
94	Billy Johnson	SN	6-0	241	So.	Braseltton	17	Rantavious Wooten	FLK	5-10	176	So.	Belle Glade, FL

Zach Mettenberger's stunning dismissal from the team — less than a week after an impressive spring game performance — had a significant impact on the depth chart.

Even if Aaron Murray maintains a hold on the starting quarterback job, moving Logan Gray to receiver or defensive back is no longer a viable option. After Murray and Gray, next in line to play quarterback would be true freshman Hutson Mason.

Mettenberger's dismissal wasn't the only one to have a domino effect.

Montez Robinson's release left the Bulldogs thin at outside linebacker, prompting the coaches to move Darryl Gamble from inside to outside. Gamble had perhaps the best pass coverage skills among the inside linebackers, as evidenced by his two interceptions for touchdowns against LSU when he was a sophomore.

• In an effort to cut down on penalties, coach Mark Richt invited the officials who work Georgia's practices and scrimmages to sit down and go over several debatable calls. In years past, Richt would disregard some of the officials' calls in practice for the sake of staying on the practice schedule. Not so this year.

"There wasn't a time this spring where an official made a call and a coach or a player or myself said, 'That's a bad call,'" Richt said.

"If the official throws a flag, it's a penalty. We're not going to make a judgment of our own whether it was a penalty or not. Other than that, there will be some instantaneous discipline for that guy, then there will be some after practice discipline for him and his fellow linebackers or D-linemen or O-linemen. We're going to have them all hold each other accountable."

• The switch from a 4-3 defense to a 3-4 has prompted speculation whether Georgia has recruited the body-types needed in the 3-4 alignment. Specifically, there's no Terrence Cody-like nose tackle or rangy outside linebackers who can be equally adept at covering backs and tight ends as they are rushing the passer.

Richt doesn't completely agree with that assessment.

"The bodies were here. We just had to find the right spot for them," Richt said. We're a little shy of outside linebackers and corners, so we have to do a little recruiting there."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On the coaching staff: "The next staff in the SEC that will be fired. They're a lot like Tennessee was before (Phil) Fulmer got fired. ... They're hard for me to figure out. They've got a ton of knowledge on the staff. Sometimes Georgia doesn't play as tough as Georgia should play. When they decide they want to be physical, they're physical. But they're not always as physical as they need to be. We didn't ever think we'd be physically outmatched by Georgia."

• On the thought that Mark Richt is on the hot seat: "I don't know if hot seat is the correct word but ... anytime you make huge changes on a staff, then you basically said, whether factually or not, 'I know the problem and I'm going to fix it.' ... You better fix it."

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Cox	13	136.33	185	331	15	55.9	2584	24	65	198.8
L. Gray	12	30.03	5	12	2	41.7	31	0	10	2.6

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
A.J. Green	10	53	808	15.2	6	65	80.8
M. Moore	13	25	249	10.0	5	23	19.2
O. Charles	13	23	374	16.3	3	44	28.8

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
W. Ealey	9	125	728	11	717	5.7	3	44	79.7
C. King	10	114	616	22	594	5.2	7	75	59.4
R. Samuel	11	88	427	32	395	4.5	2	80	35.9

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: R. Curran 130, R. Jones 73, M. Dowtin 57
Tackles for loss: J. Houston 15, G. Atkins 10.5, M. Dowtin 7
Sacks: J. Houston 7.5, D. Dobbs 4.5, C. Washington 4
Interceptions: R. Jones 4, B. Boykin 3, B. Rambo 2

Washaun Ealey

people, but the diversity of it and how many guys actually get involved in doing it," Richt said. "It's definitely an attacking style defense."

Start with the pass rush. With Demarcus Dobbs and Abry Jones lining up at the ends and Justin Houston now a blitzing outside linebacker, the Dawgs are going to be able to bring pressure from several directions.

Dobbs and Houston combined for 12

sacks and 32 hurries last year — especially impressive since Dobbs wasn't a full-time starter. Meanwhile, Cornelius Washington, who had four sacks and 13 hurries, lines up at the other outside linebacker spot.

The inside linebacker corps is deep with Akeem Dent, Darryl Gamble, Marcus Downtin, Christian Robinson and Richard Samuel, a converted running back.

But there are questions along the front seven. There's not a prototypical nose player. DeAngelo Tyson is 295 pounds, which is not overly big by the standards of the position. True freshman Mike Thornton might make a push there. But Grantham prefers quickness over a little more bulk in the middle.

The secondary is younger, but more talented than it was last year.

Brandon Boykin showed his athleticism last season as a kick returner. He has plenty of speed to cover the fastest receivers. Vance Cuff, a senior, had an excellent spring. When Branden Smith lines up opposite Boykin, the Dawgs will have as fast a pair of cornerbacks as there is anywhere.

There's still a little sorting out to do at the safeties. Bacarri Rambo is set at strong safety. Nick Williams, a converted linebacker, and junior college transfer Jakar Hamilton had solid springs. Williams has more experience, which is important at that position, but Hamilton is a ferocious hitter who has big-play capability.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Blair Walsh and Drew Butler give the Dawgs the best pair of legs on campus since Kim Basinger went to Georgia. Butler was a first-team All-American as he led the country in punting average at 48.1 yards. He boomed a 75-yard punt against Oklahoma State and put 19 punts inside the 20.

Walsh was among the top three place-

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR A.J. Green

Possibly the best wideout in the country if he avoids injury. Will make the young quarterbacks' job much easier. ... Was voted team's offensive MVP last year as a sophomore despite missing three starts due to injuries. Caught 53 passes for 808 yards. ... Showed his tremendous athletic ability with his leaping catch in end zone over a defender against LSU. ... Blocked a potential game-tying field goal against Arizona State.



EMERGING STAR

RB Washaun Ealey

Sort of flew under the radar last year because he didn't play in enough games to qualify for SEC and NCAA statistical leaders. But he was among the most productive backs in the SEC over the second half of the season, finishing with 717 yards. ... Statistics were very comparable to those of Alabama freshman Trent Richardson. ... Runs very hard between the tackles and has enough speed to turn the corner.



TOP NEWCOMER

QB Aaron Murray

A more athletic quarterback in the mold of D.J. Shockley rather than Matthew Stafford or Joe Cox. ... Was somewhat limited in the spring because quarterbacks aren't allowed to be hit, and playing out of the pocket is one of his strengths. ... Returned from a broken leg his senior year in high school to lead team to a state title. Threw for 51 touchdowns as a junior. ... The only two quarterbacks in 2009 signing class rated ahead of him were USC's Matt Barkley and Texas' Garrett Gilbert.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	32.6	34
Rushing	177.3	37
Passing	198.4	83
Total	375.7	74

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.2	18
Rushing	109.9	16
Passing	213.3	36
Total	323.2	14

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+9	+0.69	18

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	31.5	29
Rushing	148.3	56
Passing	277.7	16
Total	426.0	22

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	24.5	58
Rushing	122.3	27
Passing	189.7	32
Total	312.0	22

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-3	-0.23	73

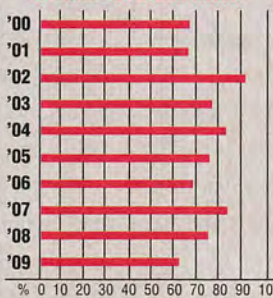
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	28.9	51
Rushing	161.0	47
Passing	201.2	80
Total	362.2	75

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.9	63
Rushing	126.2	36
Passing	213.2	51
Total	339.4	38

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-16	-1.23	118

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS (8-5, 4-4)

L	at Oklahoma State	10-24
W	SOUTH CAROLINA	41-37
W	at Arkansas	52-41
W	ARIZONA STATE	20-17
L	LSU	13-20
L	at Tennessee	19-45
W	at Vanderbilt	34-10
L	at Florida	17-41
W	TENNESSEE TECH	38-0
W	AUBURN	31-24
L	KENTUCKY	27-34
W	at Georgia Tech	30-24
W	Independence Bowl vs. Texas A&M	44-20

Player Profile



Photo by Joe Robbins

A.J. Green

Green Sets Sights on All-American Year

While Georgia's offensive playbook has plenty of passing plays, sometimes it's pretty obvious what they're going to do.

"When in doubt," said coach Mark Richt said, "throw it to A.J."

That's A.J. Green, who enters his junior season with 109 career receptions for 1,772 yards and 14 touchdowns. He has had three eight-catch games in two seasons and has had another offseason to improve his route running and get stronger.

Green shrugs off his success with humility as naturally as he blows by or leaps over defensive backs.

"I'm just working, man," Green said.

"It's happened so fast. I don't think I was expecting to play that much. I thought I was just going to get my feet wet."

Richt searched his mental thesaurus for adjectives that would do Green justice.

"Well," Richt said with a long pause, "he's different than most. He's exceptional. He's a difference maker. He's a mismatch, in my opinion, for any one person to try to cover him.

"He's got the advantage that he knows where he's going, and he's got the ability to get there better than most anybody I've seen."

Green demonstrated that last year against LSU. His leaping catch in the end zone over the LSU defender with 1:09 left gave the Dawgs the lead.

Richt declined to try to compare Green with the rest of the receivers in the country or with the many great ones he has seen at Miami, Florida State and Georgia.

"There are some fine receivers out there," Richt said. "But he can compete with any of them and do extremely well. There are some great receivers out there, but I doubt there's many that have his ability."

As dynamic as he is on the field, Green is just as impressive off it.

"He's a very quiet young man, a very humble young man, and he's a great team player. I think he's awesome," Richt said.

Green believes he has plenty of room for improvement. He has worked on improving his route running, getting stronger and "being more dominant on the perimeter."

"My first goal is trying to help my team win," Green said. "My second goal is I want to make All-American. I feel like I can. I know I can."

kickers in the country. He was 20 of 22 on his field-goal attempts, one of those misses being from 56 yards. He was 11 of 12 from 40 yards and longer and perfect on 42 PATs.

What has fans more excited, though, is the change in kickoff strategy. New linebackers coach Warren Belin, who also oversees the kickoff team, has junked the placement kick strategy for just trying to boom the ball through the end zone.

Brandon Boykin returned three kickoffs for touchdowns, and Branden Smith had a 48-yard return. The Dawgs need to find a replacement for Prince Miller on punt returns.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

As tough as the schedule is, it's actually a little more forgiving than it was last year. After opening 2009 at Oklahoma State, the Dawgs open this year at home against Louisiana-Lafayette. Mississippi State replaces LSU in the non-division rotation.

But gone is the off week before the Florida game (not that it helped much last year). Instead, the off week is between the Auburn and Georgia Tech games. That means the Dawgs play 11 consecutive games — including eight in the SEC and one at Big 12 foe Colorado.

The only breather is when Idaho State visits Athens between the Florida and Auburn games.

They do at least play Arkansas and Tennessee at home.

— Guerry Clegg

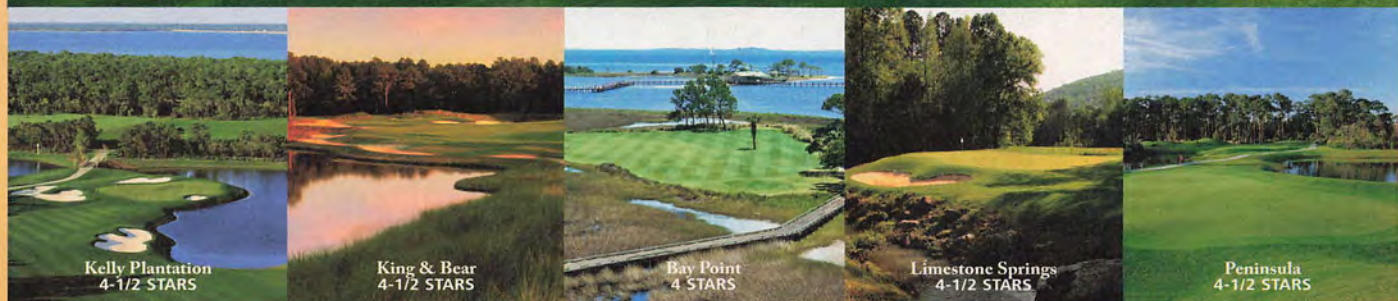
SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	6-6
Sept. 11	at South Carolina	7-6
Sept. 18	ARKANSAS	8-5
Sept. 25	at Mississippi State	5-7
Oct. 2	at Colorado	3-9
Oct. 9	TENNESSEE	7-6
Oct. 16	VANDERBILT	2-10
Oct. 23	at Kentucky	7-6
Oct. 30	vs. FLORIDA (Jacksonville)	13-1
Nov. 6	IDAHO STATE	1-10
Nov. 13	at Auburn	8-5
Nov. 27	GEORGIA TECH	11-3

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Destin, Florida
- 9 Bay Point
Panama City Beach, Florida
- 10 Slammer & Squire
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- 11 King & Bear
St. Augustine, Florida
- 12 Reunion (private)
Jackson, Mississippi

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**KENTUCKY****WILDCATS***For more coverage of the Wildcats, visit kentucky.rivals.com***OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Randy Sanders**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Steve Brown**STADIUM:** Commonwealth Stadium: 67,942

AT A GLANCE

2009

7-6, 3-5 SEC (T-4th, East)

COACH

Joker Phillips — At Kentucky and overall:
1st season

RETURNING STARTERS

13; 5 offense, 7 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR/PR Randall Cobb, RB Derrick Locke,
OG Stuart Hines, DE DeQuin Evans,
LB Danny Trevathan, FS Winston Guy

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Cobb and Locke give Kentucky two of the most dangerous playmakers in the SEC to build its offense around. Regardless of who wins the quarterback job, the passing game should be improved from last year. The secondary is deep and battle-tested.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The Wildcats have some major questions defensively, particularly in the front seven. Unless more playmakers emerge on the defensive line, Kentucky will have major problems stopping the run. The defense also will be breaking in two linebackers. And while the offense has playmakers, there are four new starters on the line.

KEY LOSSES

DT Corey Peters, CB Trevard Lindley,
LB Micah Johnson, LB Sam Maxwell,
LT Zipp Duncan

OVERVIEW

Kentucky should be much more effective on offense, but the season hinges on how a small and inexperienced defense responds. The schedule is light enough for UK to pick up six wins, but with all the question marks, a fifth straight bowl game is far from a certainty.

Joker Serious About Taking Wildcats to New Heights

The Rich Brooks era came to an end shortly after Kentucky's Music City Bowl loss to Clemson. Brooks rebounded from a rocky start to lead the Cats to an unprecedented four consecutive bowl games before calling it a career and turning the program over to his handpicked successor, Joker Phillips.

When Brooks left the University of Oregon for the NFL back in 1994, then-assistant coach Mike Bellotti took over and built on the foundation Brooks had laid, turning the Ducks into a perennial Top 25 program.

Phillips hopes to follow the same blueprint. He knows the Wildcats program in and out, having lettered as a wide receiver from 1981 to 1984 and served two different terms as an assistant coach in Lexington.

While he served as head-coach-in-waiting under Brooks for two seasons, Phillips managed to put his stamp on the program, adopting the "Operation Win" theme as the mantra for his regime.

Phillips, who will be more hands-on than Brooks, has placed a renewed emphasis on recruiting and sped up the practice tempo in the spring. He fired two holdovers from Brooks' final staff and brought in David Turner from Mississippi State to coach the defensive line and Mike Summers from Arkansas to coach the offensive line.

He also hired former Tennessee quarterback Tee Martin to coach the wide receivers and convinced strength coach Ray "Rock" Oliver, who became a household name at UK for his work with the basketball team during the Rick Pitino era, to leave a job with the Cincinnati Bengals and return to Lexington.

"Operation Win" is about excelling on and off the field, in the classroom, and in

the community," Phillips said.

"It's got to become a part of our kids' mindsets every day. We won't settle for less. We want to be able to compete for SEC championships. I grew up dreaming of playing at Kentucky, and this program has been part of my life for a long time. Nobody wants to see it happen more than I do."

But Phillips has his work cut out for him in his first year. The Wildcats must replace five defensive starters, including four who earned All-SEC honors last fall. The offensive line also lost four starters, and Phillips must figure out which of his three quarterbacks gives him the best chance to move the offense.

"We've got a lot of things to figure out," Phillips said. "But I like the talent level. We've played a lot of young players the last couple of years, and we're hoping these guys will be ready to step in and keep things moving in the right direction."

OFFENSE

The Wildcats concluded spring practice without naming a starting quarterback among senior Mike Hartline, sophomore Morgan Newton and redshirt freshman Ryan Mossakowski.

Hartline had the most consistent spring. He doesn't have overwhelming physical skills but has the best understanding of the offense and makes the fewest mistakes of the three.

Newton, a consensus prep All-American, is the best dual-threat among the trio. He was thrown to the wolves as a true freshman last year after Hartline went down with a knee injury and led the Wildcats to road wins at Auburn and Georgia. While he has a strong arm, he must prove to be a more consistent and accurate passer in order for Phillips to



Derrick Locke Photo by Michael Marti



Randall Cobb

trust him enough to open up the offense.

Mossakowski redshirted in 2009 while recovering from shoulder surgery. At times during the spring, Mossakowski looked like a player who had yet to take a collegiate snap. But he also showed some field presence and, at 6-4, 221 pounds, offers potential as a drop-back passer.

"We didn't feel like we needed to make a decision in April," Phillips said. "Mike started off strong, but the younger guys closed the gap near the end. The good thing is we feel like we can win with all three guys."

Junior wide receiver Randall Cobb will be the No. 1 option. Despite occasionally playing quarterback in the "Wildcat" package and being one of the primary return men, Cobb still managed to lead the team with 39 receptions for 447 yards and four touchdowns.

Chris Matthews struggled at times with

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Mike Hartline*	Sr.	Has an 8-6 record in 14 career starts.	Morgan Newton, So.
RB	Derrick Locke*	Sr.	Threat as a runner, receiver and return man.	Donald Russell, So.
WR	Randall Cobb*	Jr.	Go-to guy who attacks in a variety of ways.	Matt Roark, Jr.
WR	Chris Matthews*	Sr.	Should be more consistent in second year.	E.J. Fields, So.
WR	La'Rod King	So.	Showed promise as a true freshman last fall.	Gene McCaskill, Jr.
TE	Nick Melillo	Jr.	Walk-on is team's only TE with game experience.	Anthony Kendrick, Fr.
LT	Chandler Burden	Jr.	Makes the move over from defensive end.	Billy Joe Murphy, Jr.
LG	Stuart Hines*	Jr.	Emerging anchor of the offensive line.	Jake Lanefski, Jr.
C	Matt Smith	So.	One of several competing to replace Jorge Gonzalez.	Sam Simpson, Fr.
RG	Larry Warford	So.	Coaches love potential of this athletic 335-pounder.	Dave Ulinski, So.
RT	Brad Durham	Sr.	Has made seven starts in the past two seasons.	Trevino Woods, So.
K	Ryan Tydlacka	Jr.	Was 3 of 6 on field-goal attempts in 2008.	Craig McIntosh, So.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	DeQuin Evans*	Sr.	Made a team-high six sacks last fall.	Tristian Johnson, Fr.
DT	Ricky Lumpkin*	Sr.	Needs to have a career year for UK to prosper up front.	Mark Crawford, Jr.
DT	Mister Cobble	Fr.	Tore it up on the scout team as a true frosh.	Shane McCord, Sr.
DE	Taylor Wyndham*	So.	Became a household name for big hit on Tim Tebow.	Collins Ukwu, So.
LB	Danny Trevathan*	Jr.	Speedy Florida native seems headed for breakout year.	William Johnson, So.
LB	Qua Huzzie	Fr.	Small, but he packs a mean punch.	Ronnie Sneed, Jr.
LB	Jacob Dufrene	Sr.	Instinctive player who understands the system.	Ridge Wilson, So.
CB	Paul Warford*	Sr.	Has made 23 career starts.	Martavious Neloms, So.
CB	Randall Burden*	Jr.	Has improved thanks to added strength.	Cartier Rice, So.
SS	Taiedo Smith	Jr.	Can play both safety spots and cornerback.	Josh Gibbs, Jr.
FS	Winston Guy*	Jr.	A future NFL prospect if he can improve consistency.	Dakotah Tyler, Fr.
P	Ryan Tydlacka*	Jr.	Had a 40-yard average in 2009.	Craig McIntosh, So.

*Returning Starter

the transition from junior college to the SEC but still managed to catch 32 passes for 354 yards and three scores. He should be much improved as a senior.

The line lost 123 career starts with the departure of Zipp Duncan, Christian Johnson, Jorge Gonzalez and Justin Jeffries. But there's still enough talent and experience on hand to keep the bottom from falling out.

Left guard Stuart Hines was a third-team All-SEC pick last season, and right tackle Brad Durham has seven career starts. Athletic, 335-pound right guard Larry Warford has a high ceiling, and Chandler Burden's size, strength and footwork helped him make the transition to left tackle after spending his first two seasons at defensive end.

The tailback position is in fine hands thanks to senior Derrick Locke, who made a remarkable recovery from a serious knee

injury suffered a year earlier. Locke runs bigger than his 5-9, 191-pound frame suggests and is one of the country's top all-purpose threats.

DEFENSE

Kentucky has a lot of question marks on defense. The Wildcats have struggled in the past few years at stopping the run, and that was with NFL draft picks Myron Pryor, Jeremy Jarmon and Corey Peters up front.

There's no one of that caliber on the 2010 defensive line, although senior end DeQuin Evans did record a team-high six sacks in his first year in the program.

UK will need senior tackle Ricky Lumpkin to go out with a bang if the line hopes to overachieve. After being slowed by injuries during the early part of his career, Lumpkin managed to stay healthy last year. Now, he'll need to pick



Alex Smith

A four-star tight end, Smith chose the Wildcats over offers from the likes of Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Smith has a college-ready body. He has the ability to be a mismatch in the passing game and is also a physical presence as a blocker.



Brandon Gainer

It's a rare occasion when one of the top names in Dade County leaves the state of Florida, much less to head to Kentucky. But that's exactly what happened with Gainer, who is a highly touted running back out of Miami Central. Gainer's signing was an important for the Wildcats — on the field and in recruiting.



Tim Patterson

It is always important to keep the top in-state talent at home, regardless of the state. Rivals.com rated Patterson as the top overall prospect in the Bluegrass State. He is a linebacker with terrific size and a world of upside.

2011 NEEDS

It is an uncharacteristically strong year for talent within the state of Kentucky; Joker Phillips and his staff will look to capitalize on that. One major priority will be wide receiver. They will also look to strengthen both sides of the line and will be on the lookout for a quarterback of the future. Don't be surprised if the Wildcats dip into the junior college ranks more than usual in the 2011 class.

Commitments	26
Average Stars	2.77
★★★★★	0
★★★★☆	1
★★★☆☆	18
★★☆☆☆	7
Total Stars	72
National Rank: 50	SEC: 11



Avery Williamson

Though he didn't play in a large classification, Williamson was one of the most productive defenders in the state of Tennessee. He could continue Kentucky's recent success of finding sleepers from its southern neighbor.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Mychal Bailey	DB	6-0	206	★★	Summit, MS	Southwest Mississippi
Recorded 161 tackles, 7.5 sacks, four tackles for loss, three interceptions and two pass breakups in two seasons at Southwest Mississippi C.C....Had 118 tackles as a senior at LaGrange (Ga.) High School.						
Tyler Brause	QB	6-4	220	★★★★	Bucyrus, OH	Wynford
Rated as the No. 70 prospect in Ohio by Rivals.com...Passed for roughly 1,600 yards and 22 touchdowns and rushed for 1,300 yards and 26 touchdowns as a senior.						
Alvin Davis	DE	6-4	225	★★★★	Jesup, GA	Wayne County
Recorded close to 100 tackles as a junior...Saw action at defensive end, linebacker and tight end in high school...Also played basketball at Wayne County.						
Nermin Delic	DE	6-5	220	★★★★	Dalton, GA	Northwest Whitfield
Had 79 tackles, eight sacks and seven tackles for loss as a senior...Born in Bosnia and moved to United States with his family...Chose Kentucky over Maryland.						
Mike Douglas	DE	6-5	225	★★★★	Largo, FL	Largo
Played defensive end, linebacker, tight end and fullback in high school...Had 75 tackles and five sacks as a senior.						
Teven Eatmon	OL	6-7	280	★★	Bucyrus, OH	Wynford
Helped lead school to a 12-1 record and third round of the state playoffs as a senior...Also participated on the track and field team in the shot put and discus throw.						
Brandon Gainer	RB	6-0	194	★★★★	Miami, FL	Miami Central
Rated as the No. 52 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 30 running back...Rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a senior and ran for 1,644 yards and 17 touchdowns during his junior season.						
Josh Gibbs	DB	6-0	200	★★★★	Santa Clarita, CA	College of the Canyons
Had 45 tackles, three interceptions and two pass breakups as a freshman at College of the Canyons...Recorded 27 tackles, three interceptions and four pass breakups during sophomore season...Enrolled at Kentucky in January.						
Justin Henderson	DE	6-4	228	★★★★	Bamberg, SC	Bamberg-Ehrhardt
Rated as the No. 26 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 46 weakside defensive end...Had 84 tackles, seven sacks and 18 tackles for loss as a senior...Enrolled at Kentucky in January.						
Farrington Huguenin	DE	6-4	240	★★	Columbia, SC	Dreher
Played linebacker and defensive end as a senior, totaling 121 tackles and four sacks during the season...Had 82 tackles and 11 sacks as a junior.						
Jabari Johnson	LB	6-2	220	★★★★	Stone Mountain, GA	Stephenson
Helped lead school to 11-1 record as a senior...Chose Kentucky over Louisville.						
Brice Laughlin	DT	6-3	270	★★★★	Summerville, SC	Summerville
Rated as the No. 30 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 70 defensive tackle...Played at Pinewood Prep in Summerville before transferring to Summerville High School as a junior.						
Joseph Mansour	K	6-3	174	★★	LaGrange, GA	La Grange
Rated as the nation's No. 15 kicker by Rivals.com...Made field goals of 59, 56 and 52 yards during his senior season at LaGrange High School.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Tim McAdoo	DT	6-2	310	★★★★	Murfreesboro, TN	Oakland
Rated as the No. 12 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 76 defensive tackle...Recorded 62 tackles, 23 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks as a senior...Had 87 tackles with 15 tackles for loss as a junior...Chose Kentucky over Louisville.						
Malcolm McDuffen	LB	6-3	205	★★★★	Hopkinsville, KY	Christian County
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com...Had 58 tackles and 10 sacks as a senior...Saw time at linebacker, defensive end, quarterback, fullback and tight end for Christian County High School.						
Tim Patterson	LB	6-5	225	★★★★	Louisville, KY	Central
Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 35 outside linebacker...Had 92 tackles as a senior and 91 tackles as a junior.						
Jerrell Priester	ATH	5-9	185	★★★★	Allendale, SC	Allendale Fairfax
Rated as the No. 17 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 59 athlete...Rushed for 1,300 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior...Rushed for 1,194 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior.						
Tyler Robinson	TE	6-4	250	★★	Alcoa, TN	Alcoa
Caught 32 passes for 536 yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior...Chose Kentucky over Virginia Tech and Middle Tennessee State.						
Donte Rumph	DE	6-4	260	★★★★	Fork Union, VA	Fork Union Military Academy
Rated as the nation's No. 41 prep school prospect by Rivals.com...Originally signed with Kentucky in 2007.						
Raymond Sanders	RB	5-8	175	★★★★	Stone Mountain, GA	Stephenson
Rated as the No. 41 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 15 athlete...Rushed for approximately 1,300 yards and 17 touchdowns as a junior.						
Ronnie Shields	TE	6-5	220	★★	Stone Mountain, GA	Stephenson
Helped lead Stephenson to 11-1 record and the second round of the state playoffs...High school teammate of Kentucky fellow signees Jabari Johnson and Raymond Sanders.						
Eric Simmons	DB	6-0	185	★★	Atlanta, GA	Westlake
Began playing football as a junior in high school...Chose Kentucky over Middle Tennessee and New Mexico.						
Miles Simpson	RB	6-2	195	★★★★	Independence, KY	Simon Kenton
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 81 running back...Rushed for 2,227 yards and 41 touchdowns as a senior...Ran for 2,309 yards and 37 touchdowns as a junior.						
Alex Smith	TE	6-5	260	★★★★	Cincinnati, OH	Lakota West
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Ohio by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 11 tight end...Caught 27 passes for 375 yards and four touchdowns as a junior.						
Dale Trimble	DB	5-10	175	★★★★	Gadsden, AL	Gadsden City
Rated as the No. 23 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 70 cornerback...Had 66 tackles and two interceptions in 2009...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Avery Williamson	LB	6-2	220	★★★★	Milan, TN	Milan
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Set a Tennessee state championship game record with 22 tackles.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
87	Brian Adams	WR	6-4	217	Fr.	Gainesville, GA	20	Derrick Locke	TB	5-9	191	Sr.	Hugo, OK
60	Chris Agomuo	LB	6-2	200	So.	Mason, OH	53	Ricky Lumpkin	DT	6-4	292	Sr.	Clarksville, TN
30	Moneill Allen	TB	5-7	225	Sr.	New Orleans, LA	8	Chris Matthews	WR	6-5	222	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
71	Ian Anderson	OT	6-6	305	Fr.	Hilton Head Island, SC	13	Gene McCaskill	WR	6-0	191	Jr.	Chester, SC
17	Jordan Aumiller	TE	6-4	227	Fr.	Danville	44	Jakari McClanahan	WR	6-3	190	Fr.	Oak Ridge, TN
31	Mikie Benton	CB	5-11	185	So.	Russellville	92	Shane McCord	DT	6-2	292	Sr.	Hartwell, GA
34	Ed Berry	WR	6-0	165	Fr.	Eminence	68	Luke McDermott	DT	6-1	273	Jr.	Louisville
27	Aaron Boyd	WR	6-4	203	So.	Lexington	93	Craig McIntosh	K	6-0	195	So.	Lexington
88	Nik Brazley	WR	5-9	170	Jr.	Louisville	37	Greg Meisner	FB	6-1	235	Jr.	Greensburg, PA
66	Chandler Burden	OT	6-4	296	Jr.	Blue Ash, OH	42	Nick Melillo	TE	6-2	234	Jr.	Louisville
24	Randall Burden	CB	6-0	187	Jr.	LaGrange, GA	79	Kevin Mitchell	OT	6-6	320	Fr.	Winston, GA
18	Randall Cobb, II	WR/QB	5-11	191	Jr.	Alcoa, TN	44	Ryan Mosby	LB	5-11	215	Fr.	Heath, TX
97	Mister Cobble	DT	6-0	309	Fr.	Louisville	14	Anthony Mosley	CB	6-0	170	Jr.	Ellenwood, GA
86	Terrell Combs	DT	6-2	272	So.	Lexington	7	Ryan Mossakowski	QB	6-4	221	Fr.	Frisco, TX
76	Travis Compston	C	6-0	278	Fr.	Flatwoods	19	Victor Moulden	DB	5-11	172	Fr.	Hopkinsville
84	Gabe Correll	TE	6-3	225	So.	Cincinnati, OH	52	Billy Joe Murphy	OT	6-6	298	Jr.	Gallatin, TN
98	Mark Crawford	DT	6-1	307	Jr.	Indianapolis, IN	41	Brian Murphy	FB	6-0	220	Jr.	Big Stone Gap, VA
77	Marcus Davis	C	6-1	287	Sr.	Union	15	Martavius Neloms	CB	6-1	188	So.	Memphis, TN
73	Stephen Duff	OT	6-0	295	Fr.	Louisville	12	Morgan Newton	QB	6-4	235	So.	Carmel, IN
57	Jacob Dufrene	LB	6-1	220	Sr.	Cut Off, LA	14	Ryan Philippi	QB	5-11	180	So.	Lexington
75	Brad Durham	OT	6-4	310	Sr.	Mount Vernon	35	Cartier Rice	CB	5-10	189	So.	Duncan, SC
48	Alex Dutton	WR	5-10	180	So.	Louisville	3	Matt Roark	WR	6-5	206	Jr.	Acworth, GA
49	Nathan Dutton	WR	5-10	170	So.	Louisville	23	Donald Russell	TB	5-11	208	So.	West Palm Beach, FL
86	Antonio Elizey	WR	6-3	202	So.	Louisville	15	Tyler Sargent	QB	6-4	218	Jr.	Waynesville, OH
55	DeQuin Evans	DE	6-3	257	Sr.	Long Beach, CA	30	Zach Severance	CB	5-11	188	So.	Reynoldsburg, OH
19	E.J. Fields	WR	6-1	200	So.	Frankfort	90	Pat Simmons	K	6-2	195	So.	LaGrange, GA
25	Jonathan George	TB	5-10	204	Fr.	Lincoln, AL	56	Sam Simpson	C	6-4	281	Fr.	Lexington
33	Josh Gibbs	SS	5-10	193	Jr.	Long Beach, CA	69	Matt Smith	C	6-4	289	So.	Louisville
45	Antwane Glenn	DT	6-3	270	Jr.	Pacolet, SC	6	Taiedo Smith	FS	6-0	185	Jr.	Dunnell, FL
21	Winston Guy, Jr.	FS	6-1	208	Jr.	Lexington	46	Ronnie Sneed	LB	6-2	233	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL
31	Michael Harper	WR	6-1	181	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA	58	Sean Stackhouse	OG	6-4	270	So.	Jacksonville, FL
5	Mike Hartline	QB	6-6	206	Sr.	Canton, OH	26	Jordan Stevens	DB	6-1	174	Fr.	Paris
65	J.J. Helton	LS	6-3	230	Sr.	Franklin, TN	29	Zach Stevens	DB	5-10	170	So.	Paris
90	Justin Henderson	DE	6-3	231	Fr.	Bamberg, SC	49	Antonio Thomas	LB	5-11	235	Jr.	Cowpens, SC
70	Stuart Hines	OG	6-4	293	Jr.	Bowling Green	35	Chris Thomas	TB	5-9	213	Fr.	Campbellsville
37	Christian Hudnell	CB	6-0	175	Fr.	Cameron Park, CA	59	Jon Thomas	LS	5-11	231	Jr.	Louisville
2	Qua Huzzie	LB	5-10	210	Fr.	LaGrange, GA	22	Danny Trevathan	LB	6-1	225	Jr.	Leesburg, FL
64	Osaze Idumwonyi	C	6-1	291	So.	Cedar Hill, TX	9	Ryan Tydacka	P/K	6-1	205	Jr.	Louisville
51	Tristian Johnson	DE	6-1	249	Fr.	LaGrange, GA	28	Dakotah Tyler	FS	5-11	205	Fr.	Indianapolis, IN
39	William Johnson	LB	6-2	217	So.	Nashville, TN	96	Collins Ukwu	DE	6-5	258	So.	La Vergne, TN
13	E.J. Jones	WR	5-9	160	Sr.	Miami, FL	59	Dave Ullinski	OG	6-5	320	So.	Louisville
36	Andrew Joseph	FB	5-10	225	Fr.	Marietta, GA	17	Jarvis Walker	FS	6-1	208	Fr.	Marrero, LA
82	Anthony Kendrick	TE	6-3	245	Fr.	Katy, TX	93	Myron Walker, Jr.	DT	5-11	276	Fr.	Marrero, LA
16	La'Rod King	WR	6-4	202	So.	Radcliff	83	Ryan Wallace	TE	6-5	246	So.	Bowling Green
63	Jake Lanefski	OG/C	6-4	284	Jr.	Mobile, AL	67	Larry Warford	OG	6-3	335	So.	Richmond
10	Matt Lentz	LB	6-3	224	Jr.	Simpsonville, SC	34	Paul Warford	CB	5-10	206	Sr.	Richmond
42	Will Letton	LB	6-2	223	Fr.	Paris	26	CoShik Williams	TB	5-9	185	So.	Hiram, GA
78	Jacob Lewellen	DE	6-3	248	So.	Louisville	11	Greg Wilson	SS	6-1	221	Jr.	College Park, GA
45	Tatum Lewis	FB	6-0	240	So.	Winchester	48	Ridge Wilson	LB	6-3	230	So.	Louisville
95	Patrick Ligon	DE	6-4	250	Fr.	Germantown, TN	74	Trevino Woods	OT	6-5	285	So.	Athens, GA
							94	Taylor Wyndham	DE	6-4	238	So.	Swansea, SC

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Newton	8	109.7	75	135	3	55.6	706	6	60	88.2
M. Hartline	6	114.4	79	133	7	59.4	802	6	55	133.7

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
R. Cobb	12	39	447	11.5	4	55	37.2
C. Matthews	13	32	354	11.1	3	37	27.2
D. Locke	12	31	284	9.2	2	60	23.7

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
D. Locke	12	195	961	54	907	4.7	6	31	75.6
R. Cobb	12	94	587	14	573	6.1	10	61	47.8
A. Smith	13	60	262	17	245	4.1	2	16	18.8

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: M. Johnson 105, D. Trevathan 82, S. Maxwell 80
 Tackles for loss: D. Evans 12.5, C. Peters 12, two with 6.5
 Sacks: D. Evans 6, C. Peters 4, T. Wyndham 2
 Interceptions: S. Maxwell 6, C. Harrison 3, R. Burden 2

Kentucky coach **Joker Phillips** didn't want to take any chances with his two offensive stars, **Randall Cobb** and **Derrick Locke**; both players saw limited action in the spring.

Phillips didn't put Cobb at quarterback in the "Wildcat" at all during the spring scrimmages, and Locke had just two carries in the Blue/White Spring Game.

"We know what Randall Cobb and Derrick Locke can do," Phillips said.

"They're too important to our offense. There was no need to have them running the ball a whole lot in the spring. Plus, it gave some other guys a chance to get some reps and gain some confidence."

One of the young players to emerge was **Donald Russell**. The sophomore made a strong case for the backup tailback spot behind Locke by running for 118 yards and two touchdowns in the spring game, including a 70-yard scoring run.

• Redshirt freshman **Brian Adams** had a nice spring, positioning himself for a spot in the wide receiver rotation. The fact that Adams was even on the field was a minor miracle.

Shortly after arriving in Lexington last summer, Adams noticed swelling in his right arm. After a trip to the emergency room, a blood clot was discovered. Adams was put on blood thinners and was told he'd be fully recovered in a couple of weeks.

But UK trainer **Jim Madaleno** suspected that Adams, also a standout baseball player, had thoracic outlet syndrome. Adams' back became so painful that he could barely walk, leading to another trip to the emergency room.

A CT scan revealed that Adams had thrown clots to his lungs and his subclavian vein. Adams had his first rib removed and had to go on blood thinners for six months.

Adams recovered and was eventually cleared to play. And not only did he fully participate in spring practice, he also served as a pinch runner for the Kentucky baseball team.

"He was a hair from not being with us at all," Phillips said. "For him to be back out there now, it's amazing."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On what it will take for Kentucky to be successful this season: "Their success will depend on staying healthy at the skill positions — Randall Cobb and Derrick Locke. They've got to sort through and figure out who the quarterback will be. They've got some question marks on defense. Since the (2008) Liberty Bowl, they've lost four defensive linemen who are now in the NFL. How quickly they can develop a front seven and staying healthy on offense are the keys."

• On the transition to a new coaching staff: "Those guys have done a great job. I think (offensive coordinator) Randy Sanders does a really good job coaching; he makes that offense better. Randy is a good football coach, very intelligent person, and they've recruited better people."

DeQuin Evans

up his production.

Redshirt freshman tackle Mister Cobble spent a good deal of time in the backfield during spring ball and is a good bet to start next to Lumpkin. Sophomore Taylor Wyndham showed promise as a pass-rusher last season and could line up alongside Evans. Still, the Cats figure to have one of the SEC's smaller defensive lines.

Kentucky also will be looking for answers at linebacker after losing valued seniors Micah Johnson and Sam Maxwell. Junior Danny Trevathan is the team's top returning tackler and has the speed to be an effective blitzter, something the Wildcats may have to do more of to compensate for their lack of size and experience.

Redshirt freshman Qua Huzzie has the inside track on the middle linebacker spot. Huzzie can run and hit but is only 5-10, 210 pounds. Senior Jacob Dufrene and sophomore Ridge Wilson are battling for the strongside linebacker job, although that position will be de-emphasized when UK lines up in the nickel.

"We're not very big, but I really like our speed," Phillips said. "In this league you've got to be fast defensively to keep up with some of the skill-position athletes you see every week."

UK seems to be in decent shape in the secondary. Cornerback Paul Warford is a battle-tested fifth-year senior, and his running mate, Randall Burden, has gradually improved each year he's been in the program. There's good depth at corner with sophomores Martavious Neloms and Cartier Rice.

Coordinator Steve Brown hopes this is the year that junior safety Winston Guy puts it all together. Guy has size (6-1, 208), speed (4.5 40-yard dash) and packs a powerful punch. But the occasional blown assignment and missed tackle has kept Guy from reaching his potential. If the consistency comes, he could be an All-SEC player.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Other than departed place-kicker Lones Seiber, just about everybody else of significance returns in the kicking game.

Punter Ryan Tydlacka averaged 40 yards per attempt and was especially effective on hang time and placement. Incoming

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

WR Randall Cobb

First-team All-SEC as an all-purpose player by the Associated Press and ESPN.com. ... Voted 2009 Most Valuable Player by teammates. ... Ranked second in the SEC in touchdowns, third in punt returns, fourth in all-purpose yards and seventh in scoring. ... Had three game-winning touchdowns in the fourth quarter: a 12-yard TD catch vs. Louisville, a 4-yard run at Auburn and a 1-yard run at Georgia. ... Scored 15 total touchdowns, which ranks second on the UK single-season list.



EMERGING STAR

OG Stuart Hines

Only full-time starter returning on offensive line. ... Combines great strength with smarts and solid technique. ... Former coach Rich Brooks was miffed that Hines was left off the All-SEC teams last season. ... Two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll selection. ... Can play either guard spot. ... Helped paved the way for Kentucky's 191.2 rushing yards per game, the team's best since 1995. ... Named Most Improved Player by the UK coaches last season.



TOP NEWCOMER

LB Qua Huzzie

Latest in long line of Kentucky defensive players from LaGrange (Ga.), joining the likes of Denver Broncos linebacker Wesley Woodyard. ... All-time leading tackler at LaGrange. ... One of four players from LaGrange currently on the Kentucky roster. ... Would have played last year as a true freshman but suffered a shoulder injury during fall camp. ... Expected to make a big push for the starting middle linebacker job in 2010. ... Small, tough, speedy linebacker in the mold of former Georgia standout Rennie Curran.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	36.5	15
Rushing	155.5	35
Passing	287.9	19
Total	444.3	24

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.6	80
Rushing	191.1	94
Passing	206.1	24
Total	397.2	67

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-1	-0.08	64

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.6	87
Rushing	127.5	81
Passing	171.9	96
Total	299.3	106

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	21.5	35
Rushing	139.2	55
Passing	193.2	40
Total	332.4	40

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+5	-0.38	36

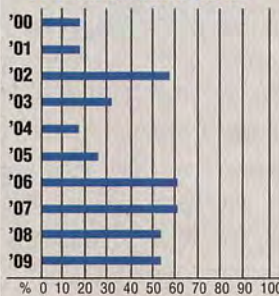
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	26.1	69
Rushing	191.2	21
Passing	140.3	114
Total	331.5	93

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.7	43
Rushing	182.9	100
Passing	176.8	17
Total	359.7	53

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+2	+0.15	51

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

7-6, 3-5

W	at Miami (Ohio)	42-0
W	LOUISVILLE	31-27
L	FLORIDA	7-41
L	ALABAMA	20-38
L	at South Carolina	26-28
W	at Auburn	21-14
W	LOUISIANA-MONROE	36-13
L	MISSISSIPPI STATE	24-31
W	EASTERN KENTUCKY	37-12
W	at Vanderbilt	24-13
W	at Georgia	34-27
L	TENNESSEE (OT)	24-30
L	Music City Bowl vs. Clemson	13-21

Player Profile



Photo by Jim Rinaldi/icon SMI

Danny Trevathan

Trevathan's Task: Be a Leader on D

Kentucky junior Danny Trevathan is one of the fastest linebackers the Wildcats have had in recent memory. He's so fast that the coaching staff briefly experimented in the spring of 2008 with using him on kickoff returns.

He just stuck to linebacker, and Trevathan quietly put together a solid season in 2009, picking up 82 tackles, including five

for loss. He should be one of the top players on the Wildcats defense this season.

But coach Joker Phillips wants more. And not just more tackles. He made it clear in the spring that he expects Trevathan, a quiet and unassuming guy by nature, to step up and give the defense some much-needed leadership.

Trevathan played alongside seniors Micah Johnson and Sam Maxwell last year, so he didn't have to do much leading. But with two new starters at linebacker and several other youngsters expected to play key roles, Phillips said Trevathan has to do more than just show up on game days.

"He was in the back seat with Micah and Sam around, but now he's got to step up and be the driver of the defense," Phillips said. "It doesn't come natural to a lot of guys, but one of the things we've really been focused on getting Danny to do is become a leader."

The process has been slow, but Trevathan said he's trying to become more comfortable with his new role.

"It's something that you've really got to develop into," Trevathan said.

"I'm trying to do a better job with that. I've been focused on myself too much, and I think that's where I've been going wrong. I can't lead them if I don't know what I'm doing. But I've got to do a better job of getting guys into the huddle and getting them focused on the plays."

Kentucky likely will use more blitz packages in 2010 to overcome its lack of size up front, which means Trevathan and his 4.5 speed should be in position to make more big plays.

"Blitzing is something that comes natural to me; I did a lot of it in high school," Trevathan said.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to be a playmaker, and if I can do that, I think the leadership will come right along with it."

freshman Joe Mansour was rated one of the country's best high school place-kickers, so UK could be in better shape there if he lives up to his prep credentials.

UK has dangerous return men in Randall Cobb and Derrick Locke. Cobb had a 73-yard punt return for a touchdown last year, while Locke took a kickoff back 100 yards for a score.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

As always, the season opener at Louisville looms large, and this time it pits Phillips against another first-year head coach in Charlie Strong. After that, the Cats get back-to-back winnable non-conference home games against Western Kentucky and Akron before traveling to Florida and Ole Miss.

The season's fate likely will be decided during a three-game October homestand.

Auburn will be looking for revenge from last year's defeat on Oct. 9. Then the Wildcats get South Carolina. The teams have had similar records in the past few seasons, but the Gamecocks have won the head-to-head meetings. Then, Georgia visits on Oct. 23.

A tough road trip to Mississippi State is followed by manageable home games against Charleston Southern and Vanderbilt. Then comes the season finale at Tennessee, which has defeated UK 25 consecutive games, although the Wildcats came close last season, losing in overtime.

— Chip Cosby

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	at Louisville	4-8
Sept. 11	WESTERN KENTUCKY	0-12
Sept. 18	AKRON	3-9
Sept. 25	at Florida	13-1
Oct. 2	at Ole Miss	9-4
Oct. 9	AUBURN	8-5
Oct. 16	SOUTH CAROLINA	7-6
Oct. 23	GEORGIA	8-5
Oct. 30	at Mississippi State	5-7
Nov. 6	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	6-5
Nov. 13	VANDERBILT	2-10
Nov. 27	at Tennessee	7-6



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**LSU****TIGERS***For more coverage of the Tigers, visit lsu.rivals.com***OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Gary Crowton**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** John Chavis**STADIUM:** Tiger Stadium: 92,400

AT A GLANCE

2009

9-4, 5-3 SEC (2nd, West)

COACH

Les Miles — At LSU: 51-15, 5 years;
overall: 79-36, 9 years

RETURNING STARTERS

12; 6 offense, 4 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Jordan Jefferson, RB Stevan Ridley,
WR Terrence Toliver, WR Russell Shepard,
CB Patrick Peterson, LB Kelvin Sheppard,
DT Lazarius Levingston

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Junior quarterback Jordan Jefferson returns for his second full season as a starter. Renewed emphasis on the run bodes well for Stevan Ridley, Michael Ford and Richard Murphy. A much-improved defense should continue its aggressive play under second-year coordinator John Chavis.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

There's enough athletic skill to go around, but much of it comes with inexperience. Peterson is a superb cornerback, but teams can avoid him given that there are only three other returning defensive starters. Jefferson has an entirely new backfield with a revamped line and receiving corps.

KEY LOSSES

RB Charles Scott, RB Keiland Williams,
OT Ciron Black, DE Rahim Alem, FS Chad Jones, KR Trindon Holliday, WR Brandon LaFell

OVERVIEW

The Tigers must find some much-needed firepower on offense. They challenged both Florida and Alabama last season before falling short. The defensive attrition creates concern, although Peterson's presence is enough to bolster any backfield. Stamina and late-game dominance will be critical to the Tigers' success.

Tigers Putting Emphasis Back Into Physical Play

Forget the Wildcat formation, which has become the trendy offensive look for so many teams. LSU is going "Big Cat."

That's what coach Les Miles likes to call the old-school, get-tough practice drill that is supposed to put some bite back into the Tigers. If it produces the desired effect, LSU will be much better because of it.

"To me, it is basically to make us a dominant and physical football team," Miles said.

Goodness knows the Tigers could use a dose of both. That has become particularly apparent over the past two seasons as the fire that helped LSU win the 2007 BCS national championship seems to have ebbed.

Seasons of 8-5 and 9-4 have critics clamoring for a change and Miles searching for ways to have LSU recapture its competitive edge. Thus, the "Big Cat" drill. Each practice in pads begins with an offensive and defensive player engaging in a one-on-one test of strength and technique.

"This gives our players the competitive view of physical interaction," Miles said.

LSU got plenty of that last season in losing to Southeastern Conference divisional champions Alabama and Florida, displaying poor late-game clock management in an upset loss at Ole Miss and dropping a 19-17 heartbreaker to Penn State in the Capital One Bowl.

LSU showed an improved defense from the previous year, but its lackluster offense ranked 11th in the SEC in yards per game (308.7) and ninth in points per game (25.5).

If LSU is to right itself, it must do so without last year's top two leading rushers, who completed their eligibility. Also gone is last season's top receiver and the

mainstay on an offensive line that never met lofty preseason expectations.

Back, though, is quarterback Jordan Jefferson, who completed his first full season as a starter by throwing 17 touchdown passes with only seven interceptions.

LSU is hopeful that additional offensive support will come from sophomore wide receiver Russell Shepard, who arrived at LSU as a much-ballyhooed quarterback but never threw a pass and played quarterback primarily in what LSU calls its "Wild Tiger" formation.

Shepard requested and was granted a move to wide receiver. He still may run with the ball on occasion to make full use of his athletic ability.

Junior cornerback Patrick Peterson spearheads a defense that lost safety Chad Jones to the NFL Draft a year early. If all goes as planned, Peterson likely will follow suit.

OFFENSE

Junior quarterback Jordan Jefferson brings experience to the field after the 6-5, 220-pounder completed 182 of 296 passes for 2,166 yards last season, but the playmaking support around him generally is untested.

Even so, much is expected of running backs Stevan Ridley and Michael Ford, and sophomore wide receivers Russell Shepard and Rueben Randle.

Injuries thrust the hard-charging Ridley into the starting lineup in the last two games, and the 226-pound junior responded with 48 yards on a career-high 14 carries against Arkansas. For the year, he carried 45 times for 180 yards and three touchdowns.

Additional support should come from Ford and senior Richard Murphy, who missed all but two games last season with



Jordan Jefferson Photo by R.D. Moore

Patrick Peterson

a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. Murphy has rushed for 442 yards and two touchdowns in his career.

Ford is more of an unknown, yet was part of an acclaimed recruiting class that featured Shepard. A redshirt freshman, the 5-10, 207-pound Ford rushed for more than 200 yards in a game nine times as a senior at Leesville (La.) High School. He ran for a team-high 139 yards in LSU's spring game.

"We've got competition," said Ridley. "Anytime you've got competition, it makes it fun. When you have competition, you find out what you can do. ... I think we're all going to end up rotating in and out."

Increased emphasis on the running game also requires renewed effort from a line that features returning starters in senior tackle Joseph Barksdale and junior guard Josh Dworaczky.

The 6-5, 315-pound Barksdale has

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Jordan Jefferson*	Jr.	Ready to begin second full year as starter.	Jarrett Lee, Jr.
RB	Stevan Ridley*	Jr.	Primed to become the featured back.	Michael Ford, Fr.
RB	Richard Murphy	Sr.	Knee injury sidelined him most of 2009.	Dominique Allen, So.
WR	Terrence Toliver*	Sr.	Coming off most productive season of career.	Rueben Randle, So.
WR	Russell Shepard	So.	Hoping position change leads to success.	Chris Tolliver, So.
TE	Mitch Joseph	Jr.	Rugged blocker who has ability to do more.	Deangelo Peterson, Jr.
LT	Joseph Barksdale*	Sr.	Started past 26 games at right tackle.	Chris Faulk, Fr.
LG	Will Blackwell	Jr.	Versatile former defensive lineman.	Josh Williford, Fr.
C	P.J. Lonergan	So.	Takes over for oft-injured T-Bob Hebert.	T-Bob Hebert, Jr.*
RG	Alex Hurst	So.	Playing time increased at end of year.	Richard Dugas, Sr.
RT	Josh Dworaczky*	Jr.	Played in 729 snaps during regular season.	Matt Branch, So.
K	Josh Jasper*	Sr.	Kicked a 57-yard field goal in spring game.	Drew Alleman, So.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Sam Montgomery	Fr.	Spent last season as a redshirt.	Michael Brockers, Fr.
DT	Lazarius Levingston*	Sr.	Missed two games with knee injury in 2009.	Josh Downs, So.
DT	Drake Nevis	Sr.	Impact playmaker along the line.	Chris Davenport, Fr.
DE	Lavar Edwards	So.	Played best game against Florida.	Chancey Aghayere, So.
LB	Ryan Baker	Jr.	Made his mark on special teams.	Thaj Jones, Fr.
LB	Kelvin Sheppard*	Sr.	At least seven tackles in all but two games.	Kevin Minter, Fr.
LB	Stefoin Francois	Jr.	Hard hitter who can create turnovers.	Lamin Barrow, Fr.
CB	Patrick Peterson*	Jr.	Extraordinary coverage ability.	Ron Brooks, Jr.
CB	Morris Claiborne	So.	Supreme athlete and former receiver.	Jhyryn Taylor, So.
SS	Brandon Taylor*	Jr.	Intercepted a pair of passes last year.	Karnell Hatcher, Jr.
FS	Jai Eugene	Sr.	Started at cornerback in 2008.	Craig Loston, Fr.
P	Derek Helton*	Sr.	Five punts of at least 50 yards in 2009.	Josh Jasper, Sr.

*Returning Starter

moved from right to left tackle, and sophomore center P.J. Lonergan replaced T-Bob Hebert in the spring after Hebert required surgery to repair a broken bone in his lower leg.

"We're just making holes for our running back, really trying to push for that vertical field momentum," Dworaczky said. "You don't see offensive linemen running with the ball and you don't see them catching passes, so the fact of the matter is we've got to do our job and that's block, period."

The more spectacular plays could come from a receiving corps with senior Terrence Toliver as the group's veteran. Toliver is the top returning receiver with 53 catches for 735 yards and three touchdowns.

Shepard is the leading returning rusher with 45 carries for 277 yards and two touchdowns, while Randle made the most of his brief appearances with two of his 11 catches going for touchdowns.

"Receiver is my main position, but then I'll play some quarterback and running back," said Shepard, who caught five passes for 34 yards last season. "I'm liking it, and who doesn't want the ball?"

DEFENSE

A revamped line will be challenged to provide the initial impact that benefits those behind it who have more game experience.

Senior tackle Lazarius Levingston is the lone regular starter back from a year ago, but others have ample playing time to their credit.

Tackle Drake Nevis, a 292-pound senior, didn't make any starts, but his 50 tackles are the most of any returning lineman.

Sophomore end Lavar Edwards started one of the 11 games in which he played and finished with 22 tackles and a forced fumble. Sophomore end Sam Montgomery is the lightest of the starting linemen at 6-4, 240, but his highly regarded prep



Spencer Ware

Ware was a bit of an anomaly as an athlete playing quarterback in high school, but still showed phenomenal athleticism. At the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, Ware played strictly running back and stole the show all week at practice. His combination of great feet, physicality and competitive nature should make him a star in Baton Rouge.



J.R. Ferguson

Throughout the 2010 recruiting cycle, there were not many players at any position that were as heavily recruited as Ferguson. He is a massive defensive end that will likely end up on the inside, but his athleticism as a pass rusher will make him valuable early in his career.



Kadron Boone

LSU was looking for depth at the wide receiver position and Boone gives the Tigers just that. Boone is an extremely polished wideout that runs crisp routes and catches everything. He doesn't have 4.3 speed or a 6-5 frame, but he has great intangibles and an understanding of the position. A longtime Texas Tech commit, Boone fell to LSU after the departure of Mike Leach from Lubbock.

2011 NEEDS

LSU hopes to cash in on a loaded class of 2011 within the state of Louisiana. They will look to add a lot of depth at the running back position, including a fullback. Defensive line will be a huge priority. On the other side of the ball, the Tigers will look to get a couple of elite offensive tackles and an athletic center prospect. Look for one quarterback to be a part of the 2011 class, as well as at least two or three wide receivers.

Commitments	27
Average Stars	3.63
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	1
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	15
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	11
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	0
Total Stars	98
National Rank: 0	SEC: 4



Armand Williams

Williams is one of the top athletes in the entire 2010 class. He has a 40-plus inch vertical leap, good straight-line speed and good size. As he continues to polish his game as a wide receiver, Williams could develop into another in a long line of great LSU receivers.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Ken Adams	TE	6-5	240	★★★★	Wesson, MS	Copiah-Lincoln C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 50 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Recorded 35 tackles and 10.5 sacks on defense in 2009...Originally signed with Auburn out of high school.						
Jordan Allen	DE	6-6	266	★★★★	West Monroe, LA	West Monroe
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Louisiana...Rated as the nation's No. 10 strongside defensive end...Recorded 100 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and three sacks for his state championship team as a senior.						
Alfred Blue	RB	6-2	203	★★★★	Boutte, LA	Hahnville
Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 60 running back...Rushed for 1,695 yards and 25 touchdowns as a senior.						
Kadron Boone	WR	6-1	190	★★★★	Ocala, FL	Trinity Catholic
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 12 wide receiver...Caught 53 passes for 931 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior.						
J.C. Copeland	DE	6-2	240	★★★★	LaGrange, GA	Troup
Rated as the No. 25 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 17 weakside defensive end...Recorded 27 sacks in his senior season.						
Travis Dickson	TE	6-3	235	★★★★	Ocean Springs, MS	Ocean Springs
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 13 tight end...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
J.R. Ferguson	DE	6-3	272	★★★★	Chatham, VA	Hargrave Military Academy
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Virginia...Rated as the nation's No. 6 strongside defensive end...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Had 67 tackles and 12 sacks as a senior.						
Jarrett Fobbs	ATH	5-11	180	★★★★	Shreveport, LA	Huntington
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 28 athlete...Had four interceptions on defense and scored 17 touchdowns on offense as a senior.						
Cameron Fordham	TE	6-4	243	★★★★	Duluth, GA	Northview
Rated as the No. 66 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 37 tight end...Had six catches for 70 yards as a senior.						
Sam Gibson	ATH	6-2	200	★★★★	Prattville, AL	Prattville
Rated as the No. 16 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 43 athlete...Led team to the Alabama Class 6A state title in 2008 as the starting quarterback.						
Jakharri Gore	RB	5-10	170	★★★★	Miami, FL	Columbus
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 30 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 6 all-purpose back...Rushed for 1,813 yards and 29 touchdowns as a senior.						
Nick Jacobs	TE	6-5	245	★★★★	Many, LA	Many
Rated as the No. 19 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 32 tight end...Played tight end and defensive end in high school.						
Zach Lee	QB	6-4	195	★★★★	McKinney, TX	McKinney
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 30 prospect in Texas...Rated as the nation's No. 9 pro-style quarterback...Passed for 2,565 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Justin Maclin	DE	6-4	215	★★★★	Memphis, TN	Ridgeway
Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 20 weakside defensive end...Recorded 95 tackles and 19 sacks as a junior.						
Tyrann Mathieu	DB	5-10	175	★★★★	New Orleans, LA	St. Augustine
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Louisiana...Rated as the nation's No. 13 cornerback...Recorded 32 tackles, five interceptions and one sack as a senior.						
Luke Muncie	LB	6-3	215	★★★★	Klein, TX	Oak
Rated as the nation's No. 42 outside linebacker by Rivals.com...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Recorded 71 tackles and three sacks as a senior.						
Elliott Porter	OL	6-4	280	★★★★	Waggaman, LA	Archbishop Shaw
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 24 offensive guard...Recorded 65 tackles his senior season after missing five games due to injury.						
Eric Reid	DB	6-2	210	★★★★	Geismar, LA	Dutchtown
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Louisiana...Rated as the nation's No. 6 safety...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Recorded 45 tackles and three interceptions as a senior.						
Tharold Simon	ATH	6-4	185	★★★★	Eunice, LA	Eunice
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Louisiana...Rated as the nation's No. 19 athlete...Recorded 13 interceptions during his career.						
Ronnie Vinson	ATH	5-11	186	★★★★	New Orleans, LA	Isidore Newman School
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Louisiana...Rated as the nation's No. 13 athlete...Rushed for 1,145 yards and 14 touchdowns on offense and recorded 59 tackles and two interceptions on defense as a senior.						
Spencer Ware	ATH	5-11	220	★★★★	Cincinnati, OH	Princeton
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Ohio...Rated as the nation's No. 3 athlete...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.						
Evan Washington	OL	6-5	290	★★★★	DeSoto, TX	DeSoto
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 27 prospect in Texas...Rated as the nation's No. 25 offensive tackle...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						
D.J. Welter	LB	6-1	225	★★★★	Crowley, LA	Notre Dame
Rated as the No. 32 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 49 outside linebacker...Recorded 132 tackles as a senior.						
Armand Williams	WR	6-3	185	★★★★	Slidell, LA	Slidell
Rated as the No. 23 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 98 wide receiver...Caught 48 passes for 628 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior.						
Brad Wing	K	6-3	175	★★★★	Baton Rouge, LA	Parkview Baptist
Rated as the No. 40 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 5 kicker...Averaged 41.8 yards per punt in 2009.						
Brandon Worle	RB	6-1	227	★★★★	LaGrange, GA	Troup
Rated as the No. 65 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 5 fullback.						
James Wright	WR	6-2	180	★★★★	Belle Chasse, LA	Belle Chasse
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 42 wide receiver...Caught 39 passes for 732 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
94	Kendrick Adams	DE	6-5	252	Jr.	Enterprise, AL	98	Dennis Johnson	DL	6-1	278	Jr.	Amory, MS
87	Chancey Aghayere	DE	6-4	263	So.	Garland, TX	58	Tah Jones	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Sulphur
25	Dexter Alexander	DB	5-9	174	Fr.	Baton Rouge	29	Jarred Joseph	WR	6-2	209	So.	New Orleans
38	Drew Allemen	PK/P	5-11	185	So.	Lafayette	83	Mitch Joseph	TE	6-5	275	Jr.	New Iberia
33	Dominique Allen	FB	5-11	255	So.	Paris, TN	49	Austin Kinchen	SN	6-1	210	So.	Baton Rouge
	Jordan Allen	DE	6-6	248	Fr.	West Monroe	12	Jarrett Lee	QB	6-2	225	Jr.	Brenham, TX
1	Barrett Bailey	QB	6-4	192	Fr.	Baton Rouge		Zach Lee	QB	6-4	210	Fr.	McKinney, TX
22	Ryan Baker	LB	6-0	221	Jr.	Grand Ridge, FL	95	Lazarus Levingson	DT	6-4	269	So.	Ruston
78	Joseph Barksdale	OT	6-5	315	Sr.	Detroit, MI	93	Bennie Logan	DE	6-3	261	Fr.	Coushatta
57	Lamin Barrow	LB	6-2	212	Fr.	Marrero	64	Patrick Lonergan	C	6-4	300	So.	New Orleans
60	Will Blackwell	OG	6-4	300	Jr.	West Monroe	6	Craig Loston	S	6-2	193	Fr.	Houston, TX
	Alfred Blue	RB	6-2	203	Fr.	Boutte	69	Stavlon Lowe	OL	6-5	296	Fr.	Brownwood, TX
71	Alex Bonnette	OL	6-2	248	Fr.	LaPlace		Justin Maclin	LB	6-4	220	Fr.	Memphis, TN
	Kadron Boone	WR	6-1	190	Fr.	Ocala, FL		Tyrann Mathieu	DB	5-9	170	Fr.	New Orleans
79	Matt Branch	OL	6-6	272	So.	Monroe	8	T.C. McCartney	QB	6-3	226	Jr.	Boulder, CO
90	Michael Brockers	DT	6-6	285	Fr.	Houston, TX	49	Barkevious Mingo	DE	6-5	209	Fr.	West Monroe
13	Ron Brooks	CB	5-11	176	Jr.	Irving, TX	46	Kevin Minter	LB	6-1	240	Fr.	Suwanee, GA
36	Derrick Bryant	DB	5-11	195	Jr.	Lawrenceville, GA	99	Sam Montgomery	DE	6-4	240	Fr.	Greenwood, SC
25	Drayton Calhoun	CB	6-0	170	Fr.	Clarkston, GA		Luke Muncie	LB	6-3	212	Fr.	Klein, TX
31	Michael Casanova	FB	6-1	210	Fr.	Crowley	18	Richard Murphy	RB	6-1	204	Sr.	Rayville
17	Morris Claiborne	WR/DB	6-0	171	So.	Shreveport	92	Drake Nevis	DT	6-1	292	Sr.	Marrero
88	Chase Clement	TE	6-5	258	So.	Thibodaux	13	Jordan Newell	WR	5-9	170	Sr.	Homer
	J.C. Copeland	DT	6-1	290	Fr.	LaGrange, GA	59	Jonathan Nixon	DE	6-2	264	Sr.	North Little Rock, AR
50	Joey Crappell	SN	6-2	232	Jr.	Patterson	89	Greg Ostrom	TE	6-4	217	Fr.	Baton Rouge
50	Chris Davenport	DT	6-4	323	Fr.	Mansfield	46	Thomas Parsons	FB	6-5	294	So.	Canyon Lake, TX
36	Cleveland Davis	RB	6-0	260	Fr.	Baton Rouge	19	Deangelo Peterson	TE	6-4	240	Jr.	New Orleans
21	Taylor Debusk	DB	5-11	180	So.	Tupelo, MS	7	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-1	211	Jr.	Pompano Beach, FL
19	David Detz	DB	6-0	177	So.	Leesville		Elliott Porter	OL	6-4	280	Fr.	Waggaman
	Travis Dickson	TE	6-3	235	Fr.	Ocean Springs, MS	41	Kyle Prater	LB	6-1	224	So.	Kerrville, TX
61	Ben Domingue	OL	6-3	275	Fr.	Lafayette	2	Rueben Randle	WR	6-3	201	So.	Bastrop
77	Josh Downs	DT	6-1	275	So.	Bastrop		Eric Reid	DB	6-2	200	Fr.	Geismar
47	Richard Dugas	FB	6-1	271	Sr.	Lincoln, NE	34	Stevan Ridley	RB	6-0	226	Jr.	Natchez, MS
40	Rockey Duplessis	LB	6-1	200	Fr.	Belle Chasse	85	Alex Russian	TE/SN	6-5	232	Jr.	Round Rock, TX
68	Josh Dworaczky	OG	6-6	281	Jr.	New Iberia	75	Greg Shaw	OT	6-5	301	Jr.	Hialeah, FL
89	Lavar Edwards	DE	6-4	265	So.	Gretna	10	Russell Shepard	WR	6-1	188	So.	Houston, TX
47	Tyler Edwards	TE	6-3	237	So.	Monroe	11	Kelvin Sheppard	LB	6-3	239	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA
45	Zach Elkins	DB	5-8	178	Sr.	Bay St. Louis, MS		Tharold Simon	WR	6-4	185	Fr.	Eunice
4	Jai Eugene	S	5-11	181	Sr.	St. Rose	51	Clay Spencer	OG	6-6	288	So.	Baton Rouge
76	Chris Faulk	OL	6-6	316	Fr.	Slidell	35	Ryan St. Julien	DB	6-1	180	So.	St. Martinville
53	Paul Felio	LB	6-0	212	Jr.	League City, TX	35	James Stampley	FB	5-10	240	Jr.	Baker
	J.R. Ferguson	DL	6-3	272	Fr.	Frederick, MD	15	Brandon Taylor	CB	6-0	191	Jr.	Franklinton
	Jarrett Fobbs	WR	5-11	180	Fr.	Shreveport	16	Jhyryn Taylor	WR	6-0	175	So.	Franklinton
42	Michael Ford	RB	5-10	207	Fr.	Leesville	48	Kellen Theriot	FB	6-1	227	So.	Houston, TX
	Cameron Fordham	OL	6-4	250	Fr.	Duluth, GA	80	Terrence Toliver	WR	6-5	206	Sr.	Hempstead, TX
23	Stefoin Francois	LB	6-1	209	Jr.	Reserve	21	Chris Tolliver	WR	6-1	178	So.	Rayville
55	Seth Fruge	LB	5-11	198	Fr.	Welsh	41	Ronnie Turpin	TE	6-4	214	So.	Baton Rouge
14	Chris Garrett	QB	6-4	235	Fr.	Tupelo, MS		Ronnie Vinson	ATH	5-11	184	Fr.	New Orleans
87	Josh Gast	TE	6-3	211	So.	Covington		Spencer Ware	ATH	5-11	223	Fr.	Cincinnati, OH
	Sam Gibson	ATH	6-1	200	Fr.	Prattville, AL	66	Evan Washington	OL	6-5	287	Fr.	DeSoto, TX
43	Daniel Graff	DB	6-0	179	Sr.	Metairie	31	Chris Wells	DB	5-11	186	Fr.	Frierson
71	Cordian Hagans	OL	6-5	287	So.	Snellville, GA		D.J. Welter	LB	6-0	226	Fr.	Crowley
86	Ian Harding	WR	6-1	203	Jr.	New Orleans		Armand Williams	WR	6-4	205	Fr.	Slidell
37	Karnell Hatcher	DB	6-2	207	Jr.	Delray Beach, FL	31	John Williams	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Breaux Bridge
53	T-Bob Hebert	C	6-3	285	Jr.	Norcross, GA	40	Tabari Williams	RB	5-10	173	Fr.	Hiram, GA
30	Trent Hebert	PK	5-9	190	Jr.	Cecil	74	Josh Williford	OL	6-7	336	Fr.	Othman, AL
38	Derek Helton	P	6-0	188	Sr.	Hoyt, KS		Brad Wing	P	6-3	175	Fr.	Melbourne, Australia
33	D.J. Howard	P	6-3	192	Jr.	Baton Rouge	23	B.J. Wilson	RB	5-8	169	So.	Gretna
72	Alex Hurst	OT	6-6	324	So.	Bartlett, TN		Brandon Worle	FB	6-2	245	Fr.	LaGrange, GA
	Nic Jacobs	TE	6-5	261	Fr.	Many		James Wright	WR	6-2	195	Fr.	Belle Chasse
30	Josh Jasper	PK/P	5-11	160	Sr.	Memphis, TN							
9	Jordan Jefferson	QB	6-5	220	Jr.	St. Rose							
39	Josh Johns	LB	6-2	205	Fr.	Baton Rouge							

Individual Stats

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Jefferson	12	137.2	182	296	7	61.5	2166	17	58	180.5
J. Lee	7	92.9	16	40	1	40.0	197	2	38	28.1

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
B. LaFell	13	57	792	13.9	11	58	60.9
T. Toliver	13	53	735	13.9	3	45	56.5
R. Dickson	11	21	157	7.5	0	12	14.3

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Scott	9	116	550	8	542	4.7	4	34	60.2
K. Williams	11	70	389	21	368	5.3	4	25	33.5
R. Shepard	11	45	294	17	277	6.2	2	69	25.2

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: K. Sheppard 110, P. Riley 97, H. Coleman 82
 Tackles for loss: D. Nevis 11, H. Coleman 9, two tied with 8.5
 Sacks: R. Alem 4.5, H. Coleman 4, D. Nevis 4
 Interceptions: C. Jones 3, three tied with two

Former LSU quarterback **Steve Ensminger** has returned to his alma mater as its tight ends coach.

Ensminger was an assistant coach at Auburn from 2003-08 before spending the 2009 season as an assistant high school coach in Auburn, Ala.

Ensminger, who played at LSU from 1976-79, also has seen tours of duty at Georgia, Texas A&M and Clemson.

Ensminger's hiring delayed the start of spring practice for two days to allow him to adjust to his new surroundings.

• **Daniel Graff**, a senior defensive back and special teams standout, received a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA.

Graff joined LSU as a walk-on in 2007 before earning a scholarship. In three years, he's played in 26 games, recorded 18 tackles on special teams and has blocked a punt. He starts on LSU's punt and kickoff coverage teams.

Graff originally signed a track scholarship with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette but spent only a week there before returning to Metairie, La., to help rebuild the family home destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Graff enrolled in the University of New Orleans in the fall of 2006 before transferring to LSU in 2007.

• Senior wide receiver **Terrence Toliver** apologized to the team in the spring after being arrested and issued three misdemeanor citations for his involvement in an altercation outside a Baton Rouge bar.

Toliver broke his left hand in the brawl, and as part of his punishment, coach **Les Miles** said Toliver was made to practice with the hand in a cast.

• LSU officials presented the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA with its 53-page report of a self-investigation into the acknowledged violations of rules concerning the recruitment, housing and transportation of former defensive end **Akiem Hicks**.

Former assistant coach **D.J. McCarthy** resigned over the matter. Hicks didn't play last season in his one semester at LSU before leaving.

• **Kevin Faulk**, LSU's all-time leading rusher, was named to the New England Patriots' 2000s All-Decade Team. Faulk rushed for 4,557 and 46 touchdowns for LSU from 1995-98.

• **Lawrence Arthur Kalden**, an offensive guard and defensive tackle on LSU's 1958 national championship team, died in April at the age of 73.

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• **On Les Miles vs. Nick Saban:** "Nick Saban spoiled them. Les' personality doesn't fit the LSU nation like Nick's did. That doesn't make it good or bad. Les won a national championship and Nick won a national championship, and there's still a segment of the LSU nation that doesn't care for Les. ... Les isn't doing a horrible job, but he doesn't have the same personality as Nick. He's a different type of bird."

• **On Miles vs. Saban, Part II:** "LSU lost its edge in terms of discipline since Nick was there. The NFL scouts are down on them. They'll (LSU) get guys drafted but not as high as when Nick was there. Nick gets guys drafted who are marginal ability-wise but coached so well, and he creates value for them (the players)."



Russell Shepard

match the coverage skills of Peterson, who started all 13 games last season while making 52 tackles and returning one of his two interceptions for a touchdown. He returned a blocked field goal for another score.

Peterson generally draws an opponent's best receiver and held Julio Jones of national champion Alabama to three receptions last season and acclaimed Georgia receiver A.J. Green to four catches. Peterson ranked third in the SEC in passes defended with 15.

Teams figure to throw the ball away from Peterson's area given that LSU has a new starter at the other cornerback spot — sophomore Morris Claiborne.

Junior Brandon Taylor is back at strong safety after starting nine games last season. Senior Jai Eugene has 11 career starts to his credit but none at free safety, where he wanted to move in an effort to see more action. Eugene replaces Chad Jones, who departed a year early after making 74 tackles and intercepting three passes.

Redshirt freshman safety Craig Loston is another member of the 2009 recruiting class who could produce major dividends before the season is complete. Loston returned an interception for a touchdown in the spring game and recorded what Miles called "four key tackles. If he doesn't make those tackles, they are big plays. ... It's really kind of what the defense needed."

With Peterson as its only marquee player, the defense figures to rely on teamwork and contributions from numerous sources to meet the expectations of second-year coordinator John Chavis.

SPECIAL TEAMS

If LSU is to have a leg up on the competition, it may well be due to senior Josh Jasper.

The tireless Jasper kicked field goals, extra points and occasionally punted for the Tigers with equal aplomb last season. He

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

CB Patrick Peterson

Teams likely will try to avoid throwing Peterson's way, but he can make his presence felt across the field. He returned an interception and a blocked field goal for touchdowns last season. ... Was an ESPN first-team All-SEC selection; was a second-team selection by the Associated Press and the league coaches. ... Of his 52 total tackles, 43 were solo stops. ... Began season with career-high nine tackles against Washington. ... Recorded team-high three pass breakups against Alabama, which scored its go-ahead touchdown on a lengthy catch and run with Peterson out of the game.



EMERGING STAR

WR Rueben Randle

Randle's playing time should increase after he started four of LSU's final five games in 2009. ... Of his 11 catches for 173 yards, two went for touchdowns of 17 and 25 yards against Ole Miss. ... Helped LSU to a victory over Georgia with two fourth-quarter receptions that totaled 28 yards. ... His first career start came against national-champion Alabama. ... Randle made a career-long catch of 31 yards against Auburn. He appeared in all 13 games and is LSU's second-leading returning receiver.



TOP NEWCOMER

RB Michael Ford

LSU's emphasis on its running attack will work in favor of Ford, who red-shirted last season after a stellar career at Leesville (La.) High School. ... In his first public appearance, he rushed 19 times for 139 yards in LSU's spring game. ... The 5-10, 207-pound Ford rushed for 2,953 yards and 29 touchdowns as a high school senior. ... A *Parade All-American* at Leesville, Ford came to LSU from a school that also produced former Tiger standouts Eddie Fuller and Cecil Collins.



career suggests big things.

"Sam Montgomery is probably the most improved player I have seen since I have been here," junior cornerback Patrick Peterson said.

That bodes well for a linebacking corps that includes last year's leading tackler and two newcomers. Senior Kelvin Sheppard made a team-high 110 stops last season, while juniors Ryan Baker and Stefoin Francois combined for 25 in supporting roles.

Few defensive backs anywhere can

2007 RANKINGS			2008 RANKINGS			2009 RANKINGS			10-YEAR WINNING TREND		RESULTS		
OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK		%	9-4, 5-3		
Scoring	38.6	11	Scoring	30.9	30	Scoring	24.9	76			W	at Washington	31-23
Rushing	214.1	11	Rushing	166.8	43	Rushing	122.8	90			W	VANDERBILT	23-9
Passing	225.3	58	Passing	201.3	71	Passing	181.8	97			W	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	31-3
Total	439.4	26	Total	368.1	55	Total	304.5	112			W	at Mississippi State	30-26
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK	DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK			W	at Georgia	20-13
Scoring	19.9	17	Scoring	24.2	56	Scoring	16.2	11			L	FLORIDA	3-13
Rushing	106.1	12	Rushing	110.2	18	Rushing	133.4	46			W	AUBURN	31-10
Passing	182.7	9	Passing	215.4	73	Passing	194.2	29			W	TULANE	42-0
Total	288.8	3	Total	325.5	32	Total	327.6	26			L	at Alabama	15-24
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK	TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK	TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK	'00		W	LOUISIANA TECH	24-16
+ 20	+ 1.43	2	- 1	- 0.08	67	+ 4	+ 0.31	36	'01		W	at Ole Miss	23-25
									'02		L	ARKANSAS (OT)	33-30
									'03		Capital One Bowl		
									'04		L	vs. Penn State	17-19
									'05				
									'06				
									'07				
									'08				
									'09				

Player Profile

Photo by John Korduner/Icon SMI



Stevan Ridley

Ridley Leads Pack in LSU Backfield

With last year's two leading rushers now gone, junior running back Stevan Ridley foresees LSU running by committee this season. If so, Ridley may well be chairman of the board.

Ridley's two starts to end last season are the most of anyone in the returning group. As such, he's ready to see how far his hard-charging ways can carry him in 2010.

"There's a lot of pressure being put on me and (redshirt freshman) Michael Ford right now," Ridley said of the emphasis LSU placed on its running game in the spring.

"If you can go in and battle and keep pushing forward, you'll be OK once the season rolls around. You've just got to tough it and out and go day to day."

That's been Ridley's philosophy since he arrived at LSU from Trinity Episcopal in Natchez, Miss., and it finally paid dividends last year. Season-ending injuries to Charles Scott and Keiland Williams thrust Ridley into the starting lineup for the regular-season finale against Arkansas, and he responded with 14 carries for 48 yards and four receptions for 30 yards.

His eight-yard catch and nine-yard run helped move LSU into position for a field goal that sent the game into overtime, which resulted in a 33-30 victory. He followed that with a fourth-quarter, one-yard touchdown run against Penn State that tied the score before the Nittany Lions pulled out a 19-17 victory in the Capital One Bowl.

"We put a premium on running the football (in the spring)," coach Les Miles said. "I felt like we improved there. ... I like the way we run the football."

So does Ridley, who believes he, Ford, senior Richard Murphy and others can compensate for the departure of Scott and Williams. Last year's two primary starters combined to rush for 910 yards and eight touchdowns.

Ridley finished with 45 carries for 180 yards and three touchdowns. For his career, he has rushed 57 times for 272 yards and three touchdowns.

Murphy has rushed for 442 career yards, including 10 on two carries last year when he missed all but two games with a torn anterior cruciate in his knee. Ridley suffered a similar injury after his freshman season but is fully recovered and ready to roll.

"You wait for this opportunity all your life and now it's there," Ridley said. "You just have to grasp it, and run with it."

tied a school record with four field goals against Arkansas, had two of more than 50 yards, and made 17 of 20 for the season. He connected on all 34 of his extra-point tries and scored a team-high 85 points.

Senior holder Derek Helton returns as the regular punter after having averaged 40.0 yards on 46 punts last season. Junior Ron Brooks appears primed to return kickoffs again and should get a shot at returning punts with the departure of the top two players in that department.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

LSU will begin the season with national exposure when it faces North Carolina in the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game in Atlanta on Sept. 4. ABC will televise the game from the Georgia Dome, site of the annual Southeastern Conference Championship Game and the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

LSU runs the risk of having its weaknesses exposed against a quality opponent to start the season. Then again, a victory could jump-start the Tigers, who begin Southeastern Conference competition the next week at Vanderbilt before entertaining Mississippi State.

The Tigers face another dangerous non-conference foe in West Virginia on Sept. 25. Tennessee returns to the schedule in a home game Oct. 2, while former LSU coach Nick Saban will bring his national champion Alabama squad to Tiger Stadium on Nov. 6.

— Dave Moormann

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	vs. North Carolina (Atlanta)	8-5
Sept. 11	at Vanderbilt	2-10
Sept. 18	MISSISSIPPI STATE	5-7
Sept. 25	WEST VIRGINIA	9-4
Oct. 2	TENNESSEE	7-6
Oct. 9	at Florida	13-1
Oct. 16	McNEESE STATE	9-3
Oct. 23	at Auburn	8-5
Nov. 6	ALABAMA	14-0
Nov. 13	LOUISIANA-MONROE	6-6
Nov. 20	OLE MISS	9-4
Nov. 27	at Arkansas	8-5

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Ole Miss REBELS

For more coverage of the Rebels, visit olemiss.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Dave Rader, Mike Markuson

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tyrone Nix

STADIUM: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium: 60,580

AT A GLANCE

2009

9-4, 4-4 (3rd, SEC West)

COACH

Houston Nutt — At Ole Miss: 18-8, 2 years; overall: 129-78, 17 years

RETURNING STARTERS

10; 3 offense, 6 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH

RB Brandon Bolden, WR Markeith Summers, OT Bradley Sowell, OT Bobby Massie, DE Kentrell Lockett, DT Jerrell Powe, LB Jonathan Cornell, SS Johnny Brown

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The Rebels return most of a defense that was one of the best in the SEC last season. Six starters and several key reserves return. UM has a particularly veteran defensive line, with five seniors who saw ample time last year.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Ole Miss is replacing almost all of its offensive playmakers from a year ago. The quarterback and receivers are particularly inexperienced. The Rebels are also trying to find two new starters along the interior offensive line.

KEY LOSSES

QB Jevan Snead, RB Dexter McCluster, WR Shay Hodge, OG John Jerry, DE Greg Hardy, LB Patrick Trahan, S Kendrick Lewis, CB Cassius Vaughn

OVERVIEW

The Rebels return a stout defense, which should certainly be able to keep them in most games. But if Ole Miss is going to go to a third straight bowl game, the young offense needs to develop quickly.

For Better or Worse, These are Houston Nutt's Rebels

During the two-year tenure of coach Houston Nutt, Ole Miss has enjoyed more success than at any time since the 1960s.

And while Nutt certainly has received a chunk of the credit for leading the Rebels to 18 victories and back-to-back Cotton Bowl triumphs, there's always been an undercurrent that former coach Ed Orgeron's recruiting skills had much to do with the success.

But now it's year three, and several of Orgeron's recruits — like quarterback Jevan Snead, running back Dexter McCluster, defensive end Greg Hardy and receiver Shay Hodge — have moved on to the NFL.

Will Nutt be able to continue the success with a roster filled increasingly with his recruits? This year should begin to tell that tale.

"We knew that three years ago this day was coming," Nutt said. "This will be our biggest challenge."

Nutt's biggest charge will be rebuilding an offense that lost eight starters and its coordinator, Kent Austin, who left for a head coaching job at Cornell.

Nutt replaced him with Dave Rader, who was the offensive coordinator at Alabama for four seasons under Mike Shula before spending the past three years in private business in the Tulsa, Okla., area.

"I hope they take this as a tremendous challenge, and it should be," Nutt said. "They have to look at it as a challenge, especially in the league that we're in. There are no off dates."

Players say they're eager to prove that the good times are going to continue in Oxford.

"Yeah, I think a lot of the guys are taking it personally," junior running back Brandon Bolden said. "We'll miss the guys who are gone, but we know we've got guys who can play this game at the

SEC level."

There are still some veterans on the Ole Miss team who remember the Orgeron days, when the team amassed plenty of talent but couldn't translate that to a winning product. Defensive end Kentrell Lockett said it's sometimes hard to believe that the Rebels finished 0-8 in the Southeastern Conference just three years ago.

"A lot has changed around here," Lockett said.

"Guys working harder, taking things more seriously. Now that I'm a senior, it's my responsibility to make sure we don't regress and fall back. I don't think there's going to be a drop-off at all."

OFFENSE

Quarterback Nathan Stanley, who played only sparingly last season behind Jevan Snead, emerges as the likely starter, although redshirt freshman Raymond Cotton could make the battle interesting if his shoulder holds up.

Cotton was diagnosed with a partial tear in his labrum in the spring but opted to try to play through the pain. To help make his arm stronger, Cotton did many of the same exercises used by the Ole Miss baseball team's pitching staff.

Stanley impressed during spring practice with his understanding of the offense and his arm strength. As is the case for many young quarterbacks, his decision-making is a work in progress.

A wildcard could be junior college quarterback Randall Mackey. He's a great athlete who put up gaudy numbers at East Mississippi Community College. He could be the perfect candidate to run the team's Wild Rebel formation that's been a success in the past two seasons.

Brandon Bolden returns after rushing for 614 yards last season. Backups Rodney



Brandon Bolden Photo by R.D. Moore

Kentrell Lockett

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Nathan Stanley	So.	Played in five games as a backup in 2009.	Raymond Cotton, Fr.
RB	Brandon Bolden	Jr.	Rushed for 614 yards last season.	Enrique Davis, Jr.
FB	E.J. Epperson	So.	Moves over full time from tight end.	Derrick Davis, Sr.
WR	Markeith Summers	Sr.	Caught four touchdown passes last season.	Ja-Mes Logan, Fr.
WR	Jesse Grandy	So.	Great on special teams as a freshman.	Lionel Breaux, Sr.
TE	Ferbia Allen	So.	Caught six passes last season.	Reggie Hicks, Sr.
LT	Bradley Sowell*	Jr.	Second full season as the starter.	Emmanuel McCray, Fr.
LG	Alex Washington	Jr.	Could be good if he loses weight.	Josh Tatum, So.
C	A.J. Hawkins	So.	Coaches like his smarts and strength.	Evan Swindall, Fr.
RG	Rishaw Johnson*	Jr.	Was a part-time starter last season.	Michael Brown, Fr.
RT	Bobby Massie*	So.	Became starter in second half of last season.	Logan Clair, Jr.
K	Bryson Rose	So.	Takes over for veteran Joshua Shene.	Andrew Ritter, So.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Wayne Dorsey	Jr.	Junior college transfer looks the part.	Cameron Whigham, Fr.
DT	Lawon Scott*	Sr.	Second year in a starting role.	Ted Laurent, Sr.
DT	Jerrell Powe*	Sr.	Led team in '09 with 12 tackles for loss.	LaMark Armour, Sr.
DE	Kentrell Lockett*	Sr.	Had five sacks last season.	Gerald Rivers, So.
LB	Allen Walker*	Sr.	Versatile against run and pass.	Mike Marry, Fr.
LB	Jonathan Cornell*	Sr.	Solid veteran in third year as starter.	D.T. Shackelford, So.
LB	Joel Kight	So.	Made 18 tackles as a freshman.	Alex Williams, Fr.
CB	Marcus Temple	Jr.	Contributed 16 tackles, one INT last season.	Charles Sawyer, Fr.
CB	Jeremy McGee	Sr.	Converted RB is now a defensive vet.	Ryan Campbell, Fr.
SS	Johnny Brown*	Sr.	Second on team with 81 tackles in 2009.	Frank Crawford, Fr.
FS	Fon Ingram	Sr.	Had 49 tackles, two INTs last year.	Damien Jackson, Jr.
P	Tyler Campbell*	So.	Averaged 44 yards per punt in '09.	Andrew Ritter, So.

*Returning Starter

Scott and Enrique Davis also have experience. Bolden lost about 10 pounds in the offseason and hopes the sleeker look can give him more burst at the line of scrimmage.

"We really like our running backs," Nutt said. "We've got some guys with experience who run downhill and can punish defenders. The best part is we've got a stable of them and can spread it around."

At receiver, the Rebels are hoping senior Markeith Summers and sophomore Jesse Grandy can emerge as starters. Summers caught four touchdown passes last season while Grandy was a special teams star — returning two kickoffs for touchdowns.

Ole Miss is also intrigued with redshirt freshman Ja-Mes Logan, who reminds some of departed Shay Hodge because of his strong body and soft hands. Sophomore Ferbia Allen emerges as the starting tight end after catching six passes last season.

On the line, the Rebels will lean on

tackles Bradley Sowell and Bobby Massie. Sowell received a rude awakening last season as the starting left tackle, but he improved greatly as the season progressed. Good games against LSU and Oklahoma State helped his confidence.

UM is still searching for depth on the interior line. Junior Rishaw Johnson and a trio of young linemen — Emmanuel McCray, A.J. Hawkins and Evan Swindall — have shown the most promise.

"We're doing better," said Mike Markuson, who was promoted to co-offensive coordinator in the offseason. "We're trying to find out who's tough out here. We're having some good days and then some bad ones."

DEFENSE

There's little doubt this Ole Miss team will go as far as the defense can carry it.

The Rebels are particularly strong along the defensive line, where six of eight play-

ers on last year's two-deep return. Defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix has built a reputation for aggressive blitz packages, which helped Ole Miss sack the quarterback 36 times last season.

Defensive tackle Jerrell Powe and defensive end Kentrell Lockett are the big names with likely NFL futures, combining for 22 tackles for loss last season. But Lawon Scott, Ted Laurent and LaMark Armour provide plenty of experienced depth.

"We're a hungry group," Lockett said. "And we've just got to get out there and eat. Get what's ours."

UM is also intrigued with Wayne Dorsey, a 6-6, 255-pound defensive end who was one of the top junior college players in the nation last season at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

"We've got a chance to have a very good defense up front, and that's all you can ask for," Nix said. "We're aggressive and we'll strike people. Our fundamentals have im-



Wayne Dorsey

Dorsey is long (6-6) with good bulk (255-pounds) and great athleticism. He was one of the most heavily recruited junior college prospects in the country last year, and is a very tough blocking assignment off the edge.



Randall Mackey

Mackey scorched the junior college ranks at quarterback. He is a great athlete that is limited with his height. But make no mistake about it, he has a big arm and can really sling the football. He should step on campus and immediately compete for snaps at quarterback.



Vincent Sanders

Sanders played with current Ole Miss standout Pat Patterson at Noxubee County and has the same kind of big-play ability. While he has good height, Sanders may take a little bit more time to be integrated into the offense than Patterson because he needs to add weight. Once he finds the field though, Sanders will add an immediate big play threat.

2011 NEEDS

The Rebels will likely look to add one or two quarterbacks to ensure the future of the position. More critical, though, will be wide receiver depth. Houston Nutt is looking for several playmakers that can add some explosiveness to the passing game in Oxford. Tight end, linebacker and cornerback will all also be areas that the Ole Miss staff will look to address.

Commitments	24
Average Stars	3.25
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	0
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	7
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	16
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	1
Total Stars	78
National Rank: 18	SEC: 7



Cedric Smith

Smith's recruitment didn't pick up until very late in the process, but the former Arkansas State commitment became a hot commodity when it did. He has a nice combination of coverage skills and physicality as a tackler.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Bryon Bennett	DT	6-2	250	★ ★ ★	Madison, MS	Madison Central
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 33 defensive tackle...Recorded 73 tackles and 10.5 sacks as a senior.						
Cliff Coleman	DB	5-10	170	★ ★ ★	Lauderdale Lakes, FL	Boyd Anderson
Rated as the nation's No. 67 cornerback by Rivals.com...Participated in Broward vs. Dade All-Star Game.						
Will Denny	OL	6-0	240	★ ★	Jackson, MS	Jackson Academy
First-team All-State selection...Helped lead Jackson Academy to 12-1 record as a senior.						
Wayne Dorsey	DE	6-6	255	★ ★ ★ ★	Perkinston, MS	Gulf Coast C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 15 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Had 30 tackles and five sacks despite missing time due to minor knee surgery...Chose Ole Miss over Florida State and North Carolina...Enrolled at Ole Miss in January.						
Jared Duke	OL	6-6	325	★ ★ ★	Cleveland, TN	Walker Valley
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 67 offensive tackle...Earned first-team Class 5A All-State honors as a senior.						
Martez Eastland	RB	6-0	235	★ ★ ★	Ringgold, GA	Ringgold
Rated as the No. 59 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 4 fullback...Rushed for 1,561 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior.						
Cordell Giles	TE	6-3	235	★ ★ ★	Benoit, MS	Ray Brooks
Rated as the No. 17 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 20 tight end...Recorded 74 tackles and 14 sacks as a senior.						
Tony Grimes	DB	5-11	166	★ ★ ★	Hollywood, FL	Hollywood Hills
Rated as the No. 72 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 40 cornerback...Recorded 64 tackles and five interceptions as a senior.						
Terrence Hackney	OL	6-7	320	★ ★ ★	Chatham, VA	Hargrave Military Academy
Rated as the nation's No. 32 prep school prospect in by Rivals.com...Played only two years of football in high school.						
Chase Hughes	OL	6-3	290	★ ★ ★	Springville, AL	Springville
Rated as the nation's No. 16 center by Rivals.com...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Enrolled at Ole Miss in January.						
Clarence Jackson	LB	6-2	218	★ ★ ★	Atlanta, GA	North Clayton
Rated as the No. 73 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 74 outside linebacker...Rushed for 1,954 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior...Also played basketball in high school.						
Damien Jackson	DB	6-3	195	★ ★ ★	Perkinston, MS	Gulf Coast C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 26 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Enrolled at Ole Miss in January.						
Delvin Jones	ATH	6-6	230	★ ★ ★	Miami, FL	Miami Palmetto
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 36 prospect in Florida...Rated as the nation's No. 23 athlete...Recorded 66 tackles and 16 sacks as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Randall Mackey	ATH	6-0	190	★ ★ ★ ★	Scooba, MS	East Mississippi C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 5 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...First-team NJCAA All-American in 2009...Passed for 3,122 and 32 touchdowns while rushing for 579 yards and five TDs in 2009.						
Carlton Martin	DT	6-2	268	★ ★ ★ ★	Madison, MS	Madison Central
Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 24 defensive tackle...Had 76 tackles and five sacks as a senior.						
Brishen Mathews	DB	6-1	190	★ ★ ★	Monticello, AR	Monticello Senior
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 36 safety...Recorded 51 tackles and two interceptions as a senior.						
Quadrance Mireles	WR	5-11	175	★ ★ ★	Delray Beach, FL	Atlantic
Caught 26 passes for 426 yards and four touchdowns as a senior...Caught 17 passes for 341 yards and two touchdowns as a junior.						
Eric Mitchell	ATH	5-11	170	★ ★ ★	Cape Coral, FL	Mariner
Had 34 tackles and 10 pass breakups while rushing for 773 yards and four touchdowns as a senior...Chose Ole Miss over Indiana, Iowa State, Michigan and FIU.						
Nicholas Parker	RB	6-2	210	★ ★ ★	Batesville, MS	South Panola
Rated as the No. 18 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 43 running back...Ran for 1,679 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior...Rushed for more than 2,500 yards and 26 touchdowns as a junior.						
Vincent Sanders	WR	6-3	182	★ ★ ★ ★	Macon, MS	Noxubee County
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 2 prospect in Mississippi...Rated as the nation's No. 15 wide receiver...Scored 13 touchdowns despite missing four games with injury as a junior.						
Jeff Scott	RB	5-8	170	★ ★ ★	Miami, FL	Archbishop Carroll
Rushed for 554 yards and 10 touchdowns in only five games as a senior...Rushed for 1,393 yards and 23 touchdowns as a junior.						
Cedric Smith	DB	5-10	170	★ ★ ★	Prattville, AL	Prattville
Rated as the No. 22 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 61 cornerback...Recorded 38 tackles and two interceptions as a senior.						
Carlos Thompson	DE	6-5	220	★ ★ ★ ★	Hollandale, MS	Simmons School
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Mississippi...Rated as the nation's No. 9 weakside defensive end...Had 71 tackles and 15 sacks as a senior...Chose Ole Miss over Mississippi State.						
Ralph Williams	LB	6-1	223	★ ★ ★	Miami, FL	Southridge
Rated as the No. 83 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Recorded 89 tackles and 18 sacks as a senior...Chose Ole Miss over Tennessee.						

No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown						
19 Richard Absher	TE	6-4	225	Jr.	St. Augustine, FL	85 Layton Jones	TE	6-5	242	Sr.	Greenville
83 Ferbia Allen	TE	6-4	240	So.	Pine Bluff, AR	39 Dele Junaid	DB	6-1	187	Fr.	Sugar Land, TX
94 LaMark Armour	DL	6-2	275	Sr.	Nashville, TN	49 Joel Knight	LB	5-8	220	So.	Lithonia, GA
14 Darius Barksdale	S	5-10	215	Fr.	Batesville	33 Tyler King	FB	5-11	224	Fr.	Suwanee, GA
48 Justin Bigham	TE	6-0	231	Fr.	Southaven	45 Josh Lancaster	LB	5-8	197	So.	Mobile, AL
17 Danny Blanks	WR	5-11	180	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA	36 Nick Lanciault	S	5-10	209	Fr.	Fredericksburg, VA
34 Brandon Bolden	RB	5-11	220	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA	99 Ted Laurent	DT	6-1	303	Sr.	Powder Springs, GA
21 Lionel Breau	WR	6-0	198	Sr.	New Orleans, LA	43 Griffin Littlefield	S	5-9	185	So.	Pike Road, AL
61 Zack Brent	OL	6-0	269	Jr.	Oxford	40 Kentrell Lockett	DE	6-5	254	Sr.	Hahnville, LA
20 Johnny Brown	S	6-0	212	Sr.	Charleston	85 Ja-Mes Logan	WR	6-2	181	Fr.	Houston, TX
55 Michael Brown	OL	6-5	305	Fr.	Lexington, TX	19 Eddie Love	S	5-11	190	Sr.	Cleveland
25 Ryan Campbell	DB	6-0	175	Fr.	Columbus, GA	15 Demareo Marr	DB	6-1	190	Sr.	Southaven
97 Tyler Campbell	P	6-2	210	So.	Little Rock, AR	52 Mike Marry	LB	6-2	237	Fr.	Clearwater, FL
54 Logan Clair	OL	6-5	305	Jr.	Mustang, OK	89 Z. Mason	TE	6-5	267	Fr.	Nashville, TN
94 Chris Conley	P	5-8	186	Fr.	Bradenton, FL	79 Bobby Massie	OL	6-6	317	So.	Lynchburg, VA
84 Richie Contartesi	WR	5-8	163	Sr.	Lake Worth, FL	70 Emmanuel McCray	OL	6-4	295	Fr.	Jackson
51 Jonathan Cornell	LB	6-1	235	Sr.	Azusa, CA	6 Jeremy McGee	CB	5-10	180	Sr.	New Orleans, LA
13 Raymond Cotton	QB	6-4	225	Fr.	Fort Meade, MD	30 Jared Mitchell	WR	6-3	190	So.	Chesterfield, MO
34 Frank Crawford	DB	6-1	160	Fr.	Miami, FL	82 Vincent Moss	WR	5-11	185	Jr.	Munford, AL
89 Zac Crosley	P	6-6	220	So.	Ft. Worth, TX	28 Korvic Neat	RB	5-8	160	Fr.	Hallandale, FL
30 Derrick Davis	FB	6-0	242	Sr.	Meridian	84 Jack Nuismer	DE	6-3	220	Fr.	Nashville, TN
27 Enrique Davis	RB	6-0	220	Jr.	Lynn Haven, FL	11 Pat Patterson	WR	6-2	215	So.	Macon
80 Billy Dobbs	WR	5-10	160	Sr.	Amory	66 Chad Phillips	LS	6-1	267	Fr.	Madison
7 Wayne Dorsey	DE	6-6	255	Jr.	Baltimore, MD	69 Wesley Phillips	LS	6-0	215	Sr.	Madison
56 Nick Eley	DT	6-1	245	Fr.	Olive Branch	57 Jerrell Powe	DT	6-2	330	Sr.	Waynesboro
33 E.J. Epperson	FB	6-2	250	So.	Humboldt, TN	96 Andrew Ritter	K	6-3	205	So.	Jackson
81 Matt Feathersen	WR	5-10	160	Fr.	Austin, TX	90 Gerald Rivers	DE	6-5	240	So.	Ellenwood, GA
58 Corey Gaines	DT	6-1	305	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL	42 Will Rollins	FB	5-11	225	Fr.	Little Rock, AR
46 Tyriek Garcia	LB	6-2	200	Fr.	Hialeah, FL	81 Bryson Rose	K	6-0	193	So.	Raleigh, NC
67 Chris Gill	OL	6-5	282	Fr.	Appleton, WI	14 Brandon Sanders	LB	6-0	208	So.	Suwanee, GA
10 Jesse Grandy	WR	5-10	155	So.	Pine Bluff, AR	3 Charles Sawyer	DB	5-10	172	Fr.	Miami, FL
8 Terrell Grant	S	6-2	209	Fr.	Cleveland	96 Lawon Scott	DT	6-2	310	Fr.	St. Petersburg, FL
27 Garen Green-Scott	S	5-10	200	Fr.	Baltimore, MD	2 Rodney Scott	RB	5-8	195	So.	Cross City, FL
45 H.R. Greer	FB	5-11	225	So.	Olive Branch	42 D.T. Shackelford	LB	6-1	230	So.	Decatur, AL
93 John Hall	K	5-11	180	So.	Atlanta, GA	47 Tim Simon	RB	6-1	213	So.	Cordova, AL
75 Matt Hall	OL	6-9	321	So.	Russellville, AR	93 Justin Smith	DL	6-3	284	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA
46 David Hankins	K	6-3	222	Jr.	Shreveport, LA	78 Bradley Sowell	OL	6-7	305	Jr.	Hernando
5 Melvin Harris	WR	6-7	200	So.	Buford, GA	12 Nathan Stanley	QB	6-5	215	So.	Tahlequah, OK
76 A.J. Hawkins	OL	6-4	305	So.	Lithonia, GA	97 Rodney Steen	DE	6-2	235	Sr.	Coffeeville
37 Lekenwic Haynes	DE	6-3	220	So.	Rosenberg, TX	16 Markeith Summers	WR	6-3	205	Sr.	Olive Branch
23 George Helow	CB	5-8	185	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL	56 Evan Swindall	C	6-3	295	Fr.	LaFayette, GA
26 Derrick Herman	RB	5-10	185	Jr.	Cleveland	37 Matt Tarpley	WR	5-10	180	Fr.	Minneapolis, MN
64 Jacob Hickman	LS	5-11	200	Fr.	Carriere	60 Josh Tatum	OL	6-5	315	So.	Marbury, AL
32 Reggie Hicks	TE	6-2	240	Sr.	Madison	4 Marcus Temple	CB	5-10	188	Jr.	Manquin, VA
83 Jordan Holder	WR	5-10	150	Fr.	Bay Springs	29 Devin Thomas	RB	5-10	205	So.	San Antonio, TX
22 Kyle Horine	CB	5-10	185	So.	Kingwood, TX	87 Mike Thomas	DL	6-4	240	Fr.	Mobile, AL
32 Shaquill Hudson	S	6-0	190	Fr.	Germantown, TN	44 Trey Trip	LB	6-1	225	Jr.	Buford, GA
65 Chase Hughes	C	6-3	290	Fr.	Springville, AL	9 Allen Walker	LB	6-1	225	Sr.	Olive Branch
20 Ben Hutton	WR	5-8	150	Fr.	Madison	73 Alex Washington	OL	6-4	340	Jr.	Monroe, LA
35 Fon Ingram	CB	6-0	200	Sr.	Atlanta, GA	55 Cameron Whigham	DE	6-2	247	Fr.	Lithonia, GA
1 Damien Jackson	S	6-2	195	Jr.	Pineville, LA	28 Julian Whitehead	CB	5-9	190	So.	Lilburn, GA
75 Rishaw Johnson	OL	6-4	305	Jr.	Hammond, LA	98 Alex Williams	DE	6-4	205	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL
						31 Rudy Wilson	DB	6-0	205	So.	Port Orange, FL

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Snead	13	124.81	191	351	20	54.4	2632	20	65	202.5
N. Stanley	5	113.01	11	23	1	47.8	163	1	38	32.6

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
S. Hodge	13	70	1135	16.2	8	65	87.3
D. McCluster	13	44	520	11.8	3	64	40.0
B. Bolden	13	20	209	10.4	1	43	16.1

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
D. McCluster	13	181	1202	33	1169	6.5	8	86	89.9
B. Bolden	13	129	663	49	614	4.8	4	45	47.2
R. Scott	11	35	140	2	138	3.9	2	25	12.5

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: K Lewis 84, J. Brown 81, J. Cornell 79
Tackles for loss: P. Trahan 12, J. Powe 12, K. Lockett 10
Sacks: M. Tillman 5.5, E. Stephens 5.5, three tied with five
Interceptions: K. Lewis 2, P. Trahan 2, C. Vaughn 2, F. Ingram 2

Maybe the best personnel move Ole Miss made in the offseason wasn't even really a move.

Instead, it was retaining the services of defensive coordinator **Tyrone Nix**, who remained with the Rebels after turning down an overture from Florida to take the same job.

Nix was rewarded handsomely for his loyalty, signing a three-year contract worth \$500,000 per season. That makes him the team's highest-paid assistant by far.

But Nix said staying wasn't about the money. Florida reportedly offered him about the same amount of money.

"I really like working for Coach (Houston) **Nutt**," Nix said. "He gives me freedom to work with the defense and do the things that I think are necessary. I couldn't ask for a better situation. When you have a good job, you don't want to leave it."

One big reason the Rebels have won 18 games over the past two seasons is because the defense has improved drastically. The Rebels gave up just 17.7 points per game last season, which ranked fourth in the SEC.

"I'm thrilled Tyrone decided to stay," Nutt said. "He's aggressive, works hard and the guys loving playing for him."

• Ole Miss has dedicated its 2010 season to junior **Bennie Abram**, a walk-on safety who died just hours after collapsing during conditioning drills on campus.

Abram was about 15 minutes into the Rebels' first conditioning workout of the spring when he collapsed. He was transferred to Oxford's Baptist Memorial hospital before dying later that afternoon.

Doctors said Ole Miss had the proper medical personnel in place at the workout. Abram had gone through a team physical in January, but no pre-existing conditions were found.

"He was very well thought of," Nutt said. "He worked so hard. It's just a sad, sad day for us."

• Ole Miss could use the help of receiver **Pat Patterson**. But the talented sophomore was suspended for the entirety of spring practice after "breaking team rules." Nutt hopes the time away from the field will ignite a passion for the game and also an understanding that following the rules are a must.

"He knows that he has to do what is right every single day," Nutt said. "He can't just do it sometimes."

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On the challenge of the Ole Miss coaching job: "Ole Miss is a tough job. There are two, three, four jobs in the league that are hard to maintain being good every year. You kind of cycle up and have a chance to win nine or 10 games, then often times go through years when you struggle to win six or seven. They could easily cycle down. Dexter McCluster was a big part of what they did."

• On the loss of QB Jevan Snead: "They'll be a team in transition. I heard about the quarterback not being on the same page. I heard they didn't try to persuade him not to go (pro). They may have had a chemistry issue."

Jesse Grandy

coaches are particularly impressed with Shackelford, who is considered a starter by Nutt even though he's listed with the second team.

Shackelford, who relishes learning the defense from Cornell, has nearly achieved the same level of mastery. Along with his defensive skills, he's also a fixture on special teams.

"I'm really starting to feel comfortable out there," Shackelford said. "Before, I was thinking a lot before making the play, but now it's all instincts."

The Rebels have two veteran safeties in seniors Johnny Brown and Fon Ingram. Junior college transfer Damien Jackson could also start. He was arguably the team's most pleasant surprise of spring practice because of his ability to quickly pick up the defense and provide hard-hitting run support.

Like Dorsey, Jackson is from Mississippi Gulf Coast.

About the only uncertain spot on the defense is at cornerback, where the Rebels will break in new starters — Jeremy McGee and Marcus Temple. Both played extensively in nickel and dime packages last season.

The coaches also like freshman Charles Sawyer, who had two interceptions in the spring game and is "one of the best young corners I've seen in a long time," according to Nutt. Another freshman, Ryan Campbell, could also see some playing time.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The biggest question for Ole Miss is at kicker, where sophomore Bryson Rose steps into a starting role after learning for two seasons behind Joshua Shene. If Rose falters, the Rebels could also use Andrew Ritter or David Hankins.

"We've got to be more consistent," Nutt said. "Once you get inside that 25-yard line, you've got to be able to count on three points. That's how you win games in this league."

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

DT Jerrell Powe

Has turned into one of the elite defensive tackles in the league, earning second-team All-SEC honors last season. ... Tied for the team lead with 12 tackles for a loss. Also had three sacks, two quarterback hurries and a forced fumble. ... One of the leaders of a defense that finished second in the SEC with 36 sacks.



EMERGING STAR

WR Markeith Summers

Was one of the Rebels' best big-play threats in 2009 with 17 catches for 394 yards and four touchdowns. ... His 23.2 yards per catch easily led the team and his 30.3 yards per game ranked third. ... With the departure of WR Shay Hodge and RB Dexter McCluster, he emerges as the team's most experienced receiver.



TOP NEWCOMER

DE Wayne Dorsey

At 6-6, 255 pounds, Dorsey was a top 15 junior college recruit according to Rivals.com. ... Will start for the Rebels immediately at defensive end. ... Had five sacks in just six games during his sophomore season at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. ... Led MGCCC with 10 sacks as a freshman.



proved, but they can always get better."

At linebacker, Ole Miss returns Jonathan Cornell and Allen Walker, who are entering their third seasons as full-time starters. Cornell knows the defense inside and out, understanding the calls and formations nearly as well as the coaching staff.

Sophomores Joel Kight and D.T. Shackelford should have increased roles after bursting onto the scene as freshmen. The

2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.1	104
Rushing	131.5	84
Passing	213.8	66
Total	345.2	91

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	28.5	70
Rushing	199.1	101
Passing	224.3	52
Total	423.4	88

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-10	-0.83	107

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	32.1	28
Rushing	186.5	29
Passing	221.2	53
Total	407.6	29

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	19.0	21
Rushing	85.5	4
Passing	221.7	81
Total	307.2	19

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-2	-0.15	72

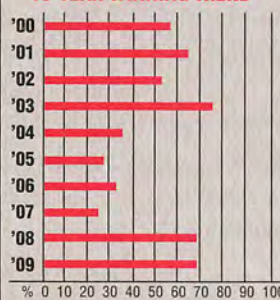
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.5	39
Rushing	183.6	32
Passing	218.8	57
Total	402.4	44

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	17.7	15
Rushing	140.3	58
Passing	174.4	15
Total	314.7	21

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-7	-0.54	102

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

9-4, 4-4

W	at Memphis	45-14
W	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	52-6
L	at South Carolina	10-16
W	at Vanderbilt	23-7
L	ALABAMA	3-22
W	UAB	48-13
W	ARKANSAS	30-17
L	at Auburn	20-33
W	NORTHERN ARIZONA	38-14
W	TENNESSEE	42-17
W	LSU	25-23
L	at Mississippi State	27-41
	Cotton Bowl	
W	vs. Oklahoma State	21-7

Player Profile



Photo by Joe Robbins

Jerrell Powe

It's Now Just About Football for Powe

Jerrell Powe has been known as the guy who was in the center of a three-year eligibility battle with the NCAA. He's also been known as the guy who needed to lose a ton of weight just to get onto the football field.

But now, as he enters his senior season at Ole Miss, he's finally being recognized for the goal he was trying to achieve all along — becoming a dominant defensive tackle in the SEC.

"I've worked hard, but a lot of other

people have worked hard helping me get here," Powe said. "I just keep trying to make them proud."

Powe, who is 6-2 and a still-hefty 330 pounds, seems like he's been with the Rebels since the days of bellbottoms and Gerald Ford. But really, he's entering just his third season with the team.

Just the fact that he's playing is a minor miracle. He didn't qualify academically for two straight seasons, and was then denied a third time after the NCAA made a rare ruling that allowed him to enroll in school but remain ineligible to play football until he completed a year of schoolwork — sort of like the old Prop 48 standard.

With dogged determination, he passed a year of school. But by then he had ballooned to nearly 375 pounds and was too big to help the Rebels much on the field.

He played sparingly in his first season because of his weight, but slowly lost about 40 pounds by the beginning of 2009. Then last fall he finally flashed his true potential, with a team-leading 12 tackles for loss, to earn second-team All-SEC honors.

Now after another offseason of refining his body, Powe is ready to help everyone remember why he was such a highly recruited defensive tackle way back in 2005.

"I feel better," Powe said. "I move better. It took awhile to knock the rust off, but now I feel much faster."

When he arrived at Ole Miss nearly three years ago, coach Houston Nutt openly wondered if Powe would ever be able to help the Rebels. Now, he has his answer.

Because of Powe's ordeal, he's become a fan favorite around Oxford. When the players walk through The Grove before each game, the Waynesboro, Miss., native always gets the biggest cheer.

"He moves really well for a big man," Nutt said. "The younger guys can look at him as an example. He's really worked hard to change his body."

Ritter is also the kickoff specialist, averaging 65.3 yards per kick. He had 12 touchbacks.

The Rebels return punter Tyler Campbell, who as a freshman ranked second in the SEC with a 44.0-yard average.

Jesse Grandy, who returned two kickoffs for touchdowns last season, likely will be the team's best home run threat once again.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

For a team that's trying to find its offense, the schedule stacks up quite nicely in the first half of the season.

Four out of the first five games are at home against Jacksonville State, Vanderbilt, Fresno State and Kentucky. The one road game in that stretch — against Tulane at the Superdome — doesn't appear too daunting.

But as usual, the teeth of the SEC schedule is daunting. The Rebels travel to Alabama and Arkansas in back-to-back weeks during October. Though not a traditional rival, the games between Ole Miss and Arkansas have been more intense the past few years because of the Houston Nutt connection.

The Rebels then have home games against Auburn and Louisiana-Lafayette before another brutal two-game road stretch against Tennessee and LSU.

The finale will be against Mississippi State in Oxford. The in-state rivalry, always intense, should carry even more meaning considering last year's 41-27 loss in Starkville.

— David Brandt

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	JACKSONVILLE STATE	8-3
Sept. 11	at Tulane	3-9
Sept. 18	VANDERBILT	2-10
Sept. 25	FRESNO STATE	8-5
Oct. 2	KENTUCKY	7-6
Oct. 16	at Alabama	14-0
Oct. 23	at Arkansas	8-5
Oct. 30	AUBURN	8-5
Nov. 6	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	6-6
Nov. 13	at Tennessee	7-6
Nov. 20	at LSU	9-4
Nov. 27	MISSISSIPPI STATE	5-7



DRUNK DRIVING DOESN'T JUST KILL DRUNK DRIVERS.

Andrea Harris, killed August 26, 1991 at 6:00pm on El Camino Real, Atascadero, California.

Next time your friend insists on driving drunk, do whatever it takes to stop him.
Because if he kills innocent people, how will you live with yourself?

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.



BULLDOGS

For more coverage of the Bulldogs, visit mississippi.state.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Les Koenning

DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS: Manny Diaz & Chris Wilson

STADIUM: Davis-Wade Stadium: 55,082

AT A GLANCE

2009

5-7, 3-5 SEC (T-4th, West)

COACH

Dan Mullen — At Mississippi State and overall: 5-7, 1 year

RETURNING STARTERS

14; 6 offense, 6 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Chris Relf, WR Chad Bumphis, WR/KR Leon Berry, LT Derek Sherrod, DE Pernell McPhee, DT Fletcher Cox, LB K.J. Wright, SS Charles Mitchell, CB Johnthan Banks

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Many of the stars on Mississippi State's defense return, including the two freshmen who emerged as adequate cornerbacks last year. State's defensive line will be one of the best in the SEC. Bumphis is a dynamic playmaker at wide receiver.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

State has little depth behind Bumphis at receiver. Quarterback is an unproven commodity, especially when it comes to passing. State is looking to fill the void left by Anthony Dixon at running back, and the offensive line still has much to prove.

KEY LOSSES

RB Anthony Dixon, LB Jamar Chaney, DT Kyle Love, QB Tyson Lee

OVERVIEW

The Bulldogs have all the pieces in place to make an improvement from last year's 5-7 record, but they have inexperience in all the wrong places, including quarterback and wide receiver. Shore up those spots, and State can benefit from an easier schedule than last year's and get into the post-season picture.

Deeper Talent Pool Could Result in a Longer Season

In Sylvester Croom's latter years — and in the first year under Dan Mullen — Mississippi State filled its depth chart with more Southeastern Conference-caliber players.

It wasn't a Florida or Alabama-type roster, of course, but the Bulldogs no longer faced the kind of large talent deficit that some of the teams of the mid-2000s attempted to overcome.

So as Mullen's second season rolls around, the program is much more capable of enduring the losses from attrition. There are quality players at most spots on defense and at places on offense.

Problem is, State lost its two best players from 2009 in running back Anthony Dixon and linebacker Jamar Chaney.

Replacing those players, whose contributions spilled over from the stat sheet and into every facet of the offseason program and the in-season locker room, will help define whether the 2010 season marks a return to bowl eligibility for a program that was oh-so-close last year.

Especially when it comes to replacing Dixon.

"When you have a guy like Anthony Dixon who you can turn and hand the ball to 30-some times a game and he walks away, you better have some depth or some guys who can come in and fill that out," Mullen said.

"That's a special player who can do those things. I think we found some depth at the running back position and guys we feel comfortable putting in the game."

Through the spring, State identified four backs who will vie for the opportunity to complete what is essentially State's job No. 1: Replenish the rushing yards that Dixon accounted for last season.

Junior college transfer Vick Ballard, junior Robert Elliott and redshirt freshmen LaDarius Perkins and Montrell Conner

likely will take on the responsibility by committee.

In addition to competition at running back, there are questions about just how much Chaney's departure will hurt the defense and about who will be State's leader at quarterback.

The exciting thing for State fans, who turned out in record number for the spring game for the second straight year with a crowd of 34,127, is seeing just how close their team is to breaking through.

State played the toughest schedule in the nation last year and wound up 5-7. It was six inches away from a 6-6 record, if you consider one goal line stand by LSU. With an easier schedule this year and the added benefit of improving depth, optimism in Starkville is at its highest in some time.

OFFENSE

In the season-ending Egg Bowl win over Ole Miss, Chris Relf, a lanky, athletic quarterback, ran roughshod over the Rebels to the tune of 131 yards, sparking much hype about his future.

His competition, Tyler Russell, is a freshman who spent last season redshirting after his signing with State was much celebrated throughout the state.

Relf closed spring ahead of Russell, though Mullen's hints about his offense always tend to leave the door open to the potential of playing two quarterbacks.

In the Relf-Russell debate, there are clear-cut differences. Relf is a natural runner whose throwing skills greatly improved in the offseason. Russell is a true pocket passer whose prep skills in Meridian, Miss., were the stuff of legend.

And then there's the wildcard: In the fall, Dylan Favre, the nephew of NFL great Brett Favre, will join the program.

Of course, who those quarterbacks hand off to is just as important a question.



K.J. Wright

Photo by Shelby Daniel/Icon SMI



Chad Bumphis

Vick Ballard brings a workmanlike detail and a complete package to the race, along with two years of experience at junior college. Robert Elliott has learned the ropes and has more experience than the rest, although he had only 44 carries last year.

Montrell Conner is a downhill, bruiser type in the Anthony Dixon mold. LaDarius Perkins is more of a scatback. Put them all together, and Mullen is completely fine with running his tailback crew by committee.

To be sure, Mullen probably wishes he had such depth at wide receiver. While he would like eight receivers in a rotation to adequately run his spread offense, he finished spring practice with about four dependable wideouts.

The unit is top heavy. Sophomore Chad Bumphis was the team's leading receiver last year with 32 catches for 375 yards and four touchdowns. He made the All-SEC freshman team. Fellow sophomore Bran-

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Chris Relf	Jr.	Proven runner; can he be an adequate passer?	Tyler Russell, Fr.
RB	Vick Ballard	Jr.	Will be by committee regardless of who is No. 1.	Robert Elliott, Jr.
FB	Patrick Hanrahan	Sr.	Bruising force who has earned team's respect.	Sylvester Hemphill, So.
WR	Leon Berry	Sr.	Junior college transfer was No. 2 option in '09.	Chris Smith, So.
WR	Chad Bumphis*	So.	Potentially the most versatile player on team.	Brandon Heavens, So.
TE	Marcus Green*	Jr.	Quietly emerged as solid threat.	Kendrick Cook, Jr.
LT	Derek Sherrod*	Sr.	All-SEC quality at most important spot.	Phillip Freeman, Sr.
LG	Quentin Saulsberry*	Jr.	Has developed after being thrown into fire in '08.	Gabe Jackson, Fr.
C	J.C. Brignone*	Sr.	His wife gave birth to a daughter in offseason.	D.J. Looney, Sr.
RG	Tobias Smith	So.	Would be a returning starter if not for injury.	Mark Melichar, Sr.
RT	Addison Lawrence*	Jr.	Younger brother, Cam, is a starting linebacker.	Templeton Hardy, So.
K	Sean Brauchle*	Sr.	Little distinguishing either player right now.	Derek DePasquale, Sr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
LE	Pernell McPhee*	Sr.	Second-team All-SEC after five sacks, 12 TFLs.	Johnathan McKenzie, Fr.
DT	Josh Boyd	So.	Will be pushed by massive JC transfer Carmon.	James Carmon, Jr.
DT	Fletcher Cox	So.	Gained nearly 50 pounds in a year, is at 300.	Devin Jones, So.
RE	Nick Bell	So.	Tenuous hold on spot with much competition.	Shane McCardell, So.
LB	Cameron Lawrence	So.	Converted safety learning outside job.	Terrell Johnson, Jr.
LB	Chris White*	Sr.	Moved from outside to replace Jamar Chaney.	Brandon Wilson, So.
LB	K.J. Wright*	Sr.	Budding star; athletic body; team leader.	Deonte Skinner, Fr.
CB	Maurice Langston*	Sr.	Became starter at midseason in 2009.	Damein Anderson, Jr.
CB	Corey Broomfield	So.	Offseason shoulder surgery limited spring work.	Louis Watson, So.
SS	Charles Mitchell*	Jr.	Perhaps the most athletic player on the field.	Wade Bonner, Jr.
FS	Johnthan Banks*	So.	Emerged as All-SEC Freshman out of nowhere.	Zach Smith, Sr.
P	Heath Hutchins*	Sr.	Averaged just shy of 40 yards as a junior.	Baker Swedenburg, Fr.

*Returning Starter

don Heavens had an eye-opening spring and could emerge as another quick, shifty deep threat.

State hopes it can find more. Even when a walk-on receiver suffered an ACL tear in the spring, it was treated as a significant blow to the depth chart.

The lack of receiver depth opens the door for State's deep crop of tight ends. Marcus Green leads a pack that includes Kendrick Cook and Brandon Henderson, and all three are favorite targets of the quarterbacks.

Much of the optimism on offense, however, hinges on the line.

State returns four starters from a crew that made drastic improvements in 2009. Sophomore Tobias Smith, healthy now, was projected to start as a freshman before suffering an ankle injury in August that kept him out for much of the year.

Assistant coach John Hevesy was hailed for his work with the offensive line a sea-

son ago. He now has plenty of experience to work with as four of his starters are upperclassmen.

DEFENSE

Long considered a strength of an offensively challenged Mississippi State program, the defense struggled for much of 2009. Some fans didn't like its style, either.

So when coordinator Carl Torbush left for Kansas in the offseason, Mullen hired Manny Diaz from Middle Tennessee State. His pedigree suggests an attacking style; his spring practice sessions showed that's exactly what he and co-coordinator Chris Wilson, who came from Oklahoma, are trying to implement.

Good for them that State returns some pretty good talent.

Pernell McPhee, a defensive end with 12 tackles for loss last year, returns as the team leader and anchors a defensive front that may well be the strength of the team.



James Carmon

Carmon comes from the same junior college as Terrance Cody, and he may have the same impact in the conference. He is absolutely massive, listed at 6-foot-7, 370 pounds. At that size though, Carmon shows unbelievable feet and quickness. He should demand attention from SEC offensive coordinators.



Michael Carr

Carr did it all for his high school team, helping it to a state championship in 2009 and earning the game's Most Valuable Player award. He impacted the game on offense, defense and special teams, and his versatility and athleticism will be a welcome addition to the wide-open Dan Mullen offense.



Damien Robinson

Robinson has been one of the most highly recruited players in the state of Mississippi since his sophomore year. He didn't decide on Mississippi State until signing day. He is a massive tackle who moves well and may be a year or two away from making an impact. He has a ton of potential and will likely become a staple of the Mississippi State offensive front.

2011 NEEDS

There is no doubt that the biggest need that Mississippi State will try to address is at wide receiver. The departure of several players due to transfer, ineligibility and more has left the Bulldogs thin at a crucial spot. Outside of that, offensive line, tight end and linebacker will all need to be addressed. Don't be surprised if Mississippi State signs a kicker and a punter as well.

Commitments	26
Average Stars	2.92
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	0
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	5
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	14
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	7
Total Stars	76
National Rank: 38	SEC: 9



Malcolm Johnson

Johnson's recruitment was relatively quiet, but he comes to Starkville as a complete wide receiver. He is strong and physical. He has good size and enough speed to get separation. He also has very sure hands and knows how to use his body as a pass-catcher.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Vick Ballard	RB	5-11	207	★ ★ ★	Perkinston, MS	Gulf Coast C.C.
Named first-team National Junior College Athletic Association All-American...Rushed for 1,728 yards and 22 touchdowns in 2009...Enrolled at Mississippi State in January.						
Ferlando Bohanna	LB	6-0	232	★ ★ ★	Memphis, TN	Whitehaven
Rated as the No. 7 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 15 inside linebacker...Had 85 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and three sacks as a senior.						
James Carmon	DT	6-7	370	★ ★ ★ ★	Perkinston, MS	Gulf Coast C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 8 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Had 32 tackles and three sacks in 2009...Enrolled at Mississippi State in January.						
Michael Carr	ATH	6-1	192	★ ★ ★ ★	West Point, MS	West Point
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 5 prospect in Mississippi...Rated as the nation's No. 22 athlete...Helped lead team to 14-1 record and 5A state championship in 2009...Chose Mississippi State over Ole Miss.						
Blaine Clausell	OL	6-7	295	★ ★	Mobile, AL	Baker
Chose Mississippi State over UAB, Southern Miss, Louisiana Tech, Louisiana-Lafayette and Troy...Enrolled at Mississippi State in January.						
Paul Crawford	DE	6-8	235	★ ★	Lewisville, TX	Hebron
Recorded 72 tackles as a senior...Also had offers to play basketball in college...Chose Mississippi State over Arkansas and Colorado State.						
Dillon Day	OL	6-4	237	★ ★	West Monroe, LA	West Monroe
Helped lead team to a 15-0 record and 5A state title as a senior...Chose Mississippi State over Louisiana Tech and Louisiana-Monroe.						
Kaleb Eulls	DE	6-4	255	★ ★ ★ ★	Pickens, MS	Yazoo County
Rated as the No. 8 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 18 weakside defensive end...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Dylan Favre	QB	5-10	180	★ ★	Bay St. Louis, MS	St. Stanislaus
Nephew of NFL quarterback Brett Favre...Threw for an amazing 5,589 yards and 63 touchdowns as a senior...Also rushed for 1,265 yards and 18 TDs while leading team to a 14-1 record and the 4A state title.						
Nick Griffin	RB	5-11	193	★ ★ ★	New Augusta, MS	Perry Central
Rated as the No. 10 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 32 running back...Rushed for 2,080 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Corvell Harrison	LB	6-3	220	★ ★ ★	Laurel, MS	Northeast Jones
Rated as the No. 27 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Had 85 tackles as a senior...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Brandon Hill	ATH	6-2	208	★ ★	Crawford, MS	West Lowndes
Caught 23 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns while registering 64 tackles and three interceptions on defense as a senior...Chose Mississippi State over Ole Miss, Arkansas and Southern Miss.						
Christian Holmes	LB	6-2	235	★ ★	Puckett, MS	Puckett
Recorded 107 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions as a senior...Chose Mississippi State over Ole Miss, Memphis and Southern Miss.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jeff Howie	OL	6-4	330	★ ★ ★	Fulton, MS	Hawamba C.C.
Played defensive tackle in 2009 and recorded 38 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and five sacks in six games...Originally signed with Temple out of high school.						
Chris Hughes	DB	6-0	215	★ ★ ★	Mobile, AL	Davidson
Rated as the No. 25 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 48 safety...Had 118 tackles, seven tackles for loss, one sack and three interceptions as a junior.						
Jay Hughes	ATH	5-11	175	★ ★ ★	Hattiesburg, MS	Oak Grove
Rated as the No. 24 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rushed for 856 yards and four touchdowns as a senior.						
Malcolm Johnson	WR	6-1	200	★ ★ ★	Tuscaloosa, AL	Northridge
Rated as the No. 33 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 81 wide receiver...Caught 39 passes for 598 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior.						
Robert Johnson	WR	6-0	196	★ ★ ★ ★	Hattiesburg, MS	Oak Grove
Rated as the No. 9 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 47 wide receiver...Caught 28 passes for 529 yards and two touchdowns as a senior.						
Eric Lawson	OL	6-6	320	★ ★ ★	Olive Branch, MS	Olive Branch
Rated as the No. 30 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Chose Mississippi State over Texas Tech.						
Jeremy Lee	DB	5-10	170	★ ★	Utica, MS	Hinds AHS
Rushed for 558 yards and four touchdowns and caught 13 passes for 149 yards while recording 35 tackles and two interceptions on defense in 2009...Chose Mississippi State over Southern Miss.						
Jameon Lewis	ATH	5-9	175	★ ★ ★	Tylertown, MS	Tylertown
Rated as the No. 28 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Passed for 1,161 yards and 13 touchdowns while rushing for 1,182 yards and 18 scores as a senior.						
Jamerson Love	DB	5-11	175	★ ★ ★	Aberdeen, MS	Aberdeen
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 54 cornerback...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Archie Muniz	OL	6-5	255	★ ★ ★	Houston, TX	Cy-Creek
Rated as the nation's No. 61 offensive tackle by Rivals.com...Helped lead team to 9-1 record and district title.						
Damien Robinson	OL	6-8	330	★ ★ ★ ★	Olive Branch, MS	Olive Branch
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Mississippi...Rated as the nation's No. 21 offensive tackle...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Curtis Virges	DT	6-3	290	★ ★ ★	West Point, MS	West Point
Rated as the No. 14 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 63 defensive tackle...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						
Matthew Wells	ATH	6-0	190	★ ★ ★	Monticello, MS	Lawrence County
Rated as the No. 19 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 36 athlete...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic.						

No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Class	Hometown	60 Devin Jones	DL	6-0	270	So.	Olive Branch
26 Damein Anderson	DB	5-11	195	Jr.	Hazlehurst	33 Jamie Jones	LB	6-0	240	Jr.	Springdale, AR
83 Charles Bailey	WR	6-1	185	So.	St. Augustine, FL	15 Maurice Langston	DB	5-10	180	Sr.	Meridian
28 Vick Ballard	RB	5-11	215	Jr.	Pascagoula	77 Sam Latham	ATH	6-1	280	So.	Cordova, TN
13 Johnthan Banks	DB	6-2	180	So.	Maben	62 Addison Lawrence	OL	6-4	300	Jr.	Coldwater
36 Nick Bell	DL	6-3	265	So.	Bessemer, AL	10 Cameron Lawrence	LB	6-2	225	So.	Coldwater
9 Leon Berry	WR	6-0	205	Sr.	Griffin, GA	66 D.J. Looney	OL	6-1	300	Jr.	Birmingham, AL
34 Jordan Blankenship	ATH	6-4	200	Fr.	Hattiesburg	64 Mark Lynn	ATH	6-0	230	Sr.	Madison
7 Wade Bonner	DB	5-10	200	Jr.	Mason, TN	45 Adrian Marcus	ATH	5-9	225	So.	Alabaster, AL
97 Josh Boyd	DL	6-3	295	So.	Philadelphia	96 Shane McCardell	DL	6-5	245	So.	Beaumont, TX
37 Sean Brauchle	K	5-10	180	Sr.	Biloxi	57 Johnathan McKenzie	DL	6-6	265	Fr.	Starkville
70 J.C. Brignone	OL	6-1	300	Sr.	Pass Christian	72 John McMillan	OL	6-1	290	Sr.	Paragould, AR
25 Corey Broomfield	DB	5-10	180	So.	Palm Bay, FL	90 Pernell McPhee	DL	6-4	285	Sr.	Pahokee, FL
52 Karlin Brown	LB	5-8	205	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL	74 Mark Melichar	OL	6-5	300	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
78 Michael Bufkin	ATH	6-4	285	Jr.	Clinton	4 Charles Mitchell	DB	5-11	205	Jr.	Clarksdale
42 E.J. Buford	ATH	6-0	215	Jr.	Clarksdale	69 Reggie Odom	DL	6-0	295	Sr.	Deland, FL
1 Chad Bumphis	WR	5-10	195	So.	Tupelo	27 LaDarius Perkins	WR	5-10	190	Fr.	Greenville
41 Marvin Bure	ATH	5-8	190	Jr.	Vicksburg	91 Rodney Prince	DL	6-1	280	Jr.	Irondale, AL
47 Chris Cameron	ATH	5-10	185	So.	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	14 Chris Relf	QB	6-4	240	Jr.	Montgomery, AL
95 James Carmon	DL	6-7	345	Jr.	Baltimore, MD	17 Tyler Russell	QB	6-5	225	Fr.	Meridian
89 Arceto Clark	DB	5-10	180	So.	Verona	11 Ricco Sanders	WR	5-11	195	Fr.	Duncan, SC
75 Blaine Clausell	OL	6-7	305	Fr.	Mobile, AL	55 Quentin Saulsberry	OL	6-2	305	Jr.	Coldwater
8 Montrell Conner	RB	6-2	225	Fr.	Monroe, LA	15 Riley Saunders	ATH	6-0	195	So.	Oxford
88 Kendrick Cook	TE	6-3	250	Jr.	Attalla, AL	79 Derek Sherrod	OL	6-6	305	Sr.	Columbus
94 Fletcher Cox	DL	6-4	300	So.	Yazoo City	43 William Shumpert	FB	6-0	240	Fr.	Fullton
40 Derek DePasquale	K	5-8	180	Sr.	The Woodlands, TX	51 Deonte Skinner	LB	6-2	235	Fr.	Macon
2 Robert Elliott	RB	6-2	215	Jr.	Okolona	87 Chris Smith	WR	6-2	210	So.	Meridian
46 Aaron Feld	SN	6-1	230	Sr.	Homewood, AL	67 Tobias Smith	OL	6-3	305	So.	Columbus
99 Sean Ferguson	DL	6-3	255	So.	Miami, FL	42 Zach Smith	DB	5-11	195	Sr.	Altoona, AL
76 Phillip Freeman	OL	6-6	305	Sr.	Wesson	16 Daniel Stegall	ATH	6-2	220	Fr.	Greenwood, AR
48 Emmanuel Gatling	LB	6-0	220	Sr.	McAllen, TX	54 Trevor Stigers	DL	6-5	260	So.	Ridgeland
32 Marcus Green	TE	6-1	235	Jr.	Scooba	39 Baker Swendenburg	P	6-0	190	Fr.	Columbus
56 Tyler Gregory	ATH	5-10	210	So.	Terry	12 Dennis Thames	DB	5-11	190	Fr.	Louisville
35 Patrick Hanrahan	FB	5-11	235	Sr.	Springville, AL	89 Allen Tolbert	ATH	5-11	230	So.	Duluth, GA
68 Templeton Hardy	OL	6-3	300	So.	Como	20 Louis Watson	DB	5-11	180	So.	Mobile, AL
3 Brandon Heavens	WR	5-10	175	So.	Bessemer, AL	71 Sam Watts	OL	6-4	305	Fr.	Conyers, GA
23 Sylvester Hemphill	FB	5-11	235	So.	Olive Branch	82 Thomas Webb	TE	6-5	255	Sr.	Starkville
85 Brandon Henderson	TE	6-2	245	Sr.	Fayetteville, GA	50 Chris White	LB	6-4	245	Sr.	Vanceleaves
45 Michael Hunt	LB	6-3	245	So.	Meadville	31 Nickoe Whitley	DB	6-0	200	Fr.	Jackson
38 Heath Hutchins	P	6-1	205	Sr.	Saltillo	33 Sam Williams	ATH	6-1	200	Fr.	Brandon
61 Gabe Jackson	OL	6-4	305	Fr.	Liberty	58 Brandon Wilson	ATH	6-0	245	So.	Tuscaloosa, AL
65 Joshua Jackson	DL	6-2	300	Jr.	Canton	34 K.J. Wright	LB	6-4	250	Sr.	Olive Branch
49 Terrell Johnson	LB	6-2	215	Jr.	Cullomburg, AL						

Those expecting one tailback to emerge in the battle to replace Anthony Dixon didn't follow the **Dan Mullen**-coached Bulldogs last year.

Even with Dixon carrying the load and breaking a single-season rushing record last year, State spread carries to four tailbacks. **Montrell Conner**, one of the tailbacks vying for carries in 2010, isn't under any grand impression that there will be a 25-carry-a-game guy this fall.

"Not in this offense," he said. "It's going to be a bunch of guys, because you're going to be doing a lot of running, a lot of spreading over the field. You're going to get winded."

• A pair of safeties caught Mullen's eyes in the spring game, which hints to the growing depth at that position a year after it was far from one of the team's strengths.

Mullen noted that the development of freshmen **Nickoe Whitley** and **Dennis Thames** has enabled his defensive staff to experiment with moving **Johnthan Banks**, a freshman All-SEC safety last year, to cornerback.

• Mullen received a one-year contract extension after leading State to a 5-7 season that was marked with offensive improvement. His salary remains \$1.2 million. His contract runs through the 2013 season and, at four years, is the longest allowable under Mississippi law.

Mullen's buyout isn't known. It's in the portion of his contract that is with the private, non-profit Bulldog Foundation.

• If one game can provide the momentum for an entire season, State hopes its 2009 Egg Bowl win over archrival Ole Miss can. It marked the end of an entire year in which Mullen wasn't shy about talking smack.

The Golden Egg trophy was paraded to State fans, many of whom took their pictures beside it. And when the spring game attendance was announced, it ended with four familiar numbers.

Yes, the attendance of 34,127 paid homage to the 41-27 win over the Rebels.

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On running the spread offense under former Florida coordinator **Dan Mullen**: "They probably have the right system fit offensively. They're running a system they can recruit to in that state. They've always had trouble getting a quarterback that could really throw the ball and be successful. They can attract guys that can run and throw the ball, which will fit in their offensive scheme right now. Wayne Madkin is their all-time leading passer. Nothing against Madkin, but that's a lot of history for it not to be anybody else."

• On how the Bulldogs played last season: "Last year they were very, very physical. The backup (Chris Relf) was the best quarterback. If he stays healthy, they can run that offense. That offense has been proven already. They don't have the same players as Florida, but they're not bad."

PASSING

Name	G	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
T. Lee	12	107.0	130	221	14	58.8	1444	4	69	120.3
C. Relf	10	137.2	22	41	3	53.7	283	5	46	28.3

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
C. Bumphis	12	32	375	11.7	4	69	31.2
M. Green	12	27	306	11.3	3	50	25.5
A. Dixon	11	18	123	6.8	0	18	11.2

RUSHING

Name	G	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
A. Dixon	11	257	1445	54	1391	5.4	12	70	126.5
C. Relf	10	76	525	25	500	6.6	2	53	50.0
C. Ducre	9	45	272	9	263	5.8	2	23	29.2

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: J. Chaney 90, K.J. Wright 82, C. White 75
Tackles for loss: P. McPhee 12, K.J. Wright 6.5, S. Ferguson 5.5
Sacks: P. McPhee 5, D. Jones 2.5, two tied with two
Interceptions: C. Broomfield 6, C. Mitchell 4, J. Banks 4

Derek Sherrod

Josh Boyd and Fletcher Cox were praised as true freshmen tackles last year. Both seem cemented in the starting roles. Cox, in fact, gained nearly 50 pounds in less than a year and now looks the role at 6-4, 300 pounds.

He's no James Carmon, the junior college transfer who at 6-7, 345 pounds has

gained comparisons to former Alabama run-stopper Terrence Cody. He doesn't like those comparisons, though.

"Look at me and look at him," Carmon said. "The weight shows. I'm more versatile. I think I can run. I can get sideline to sideline, I'm not just a gap-filler."

Nick Bell leads a group of players vying to become the other defensive end opposite McPhee. That position may be played by committee with Shane McCardell and Sean Ferguson, who has started there in the past, with both players getting time.

Chris White, who quietly was an anchor at outside linebacker last year, moves to the middle linebacker spot once occupied by team leader Jamar Chaney. White and K.J. Wright, who returns at outside linebacker, are the team's top two returning tacklers.

Cameron Lawrence moves from safety to the other outside linebacker spot and initial reviews were positive about his transition. The move marked the fourth different position Lawrence has played at State.

Perhaps no secondary has undergone as quick a renaissance as State's.

Last year, it was often criticized after giving up plenty of passing yards early in the season. Some personnel switches produced some fine players: Corey Broomfield and Johnthan Banks became All-SEC Freshman selections with 10 interceptions between them.

Development from other players, including safety Nickoe Whitley, allowed Diaz to experiment with moving Banks to corner in the spring.

Strong safety Charles Mitchell is the leader back there. He is as athletic and quick as any player on the team and takes on work with a quiet intensity. Mitchell intercepted four passes last year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bulldogs return all three of the kickers it used regularly last year — punt-

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

DE Pernell McPhee

Had five sacks and 12 tackles for loss in 2009, his first year at State after transferring from Itawamba (Miss.) Community College. ... Was named to the All-SEC second team after emerging as one of the league's top threats off the end. ... Colorful player who backs up his talk. ... Was a highly regarded recruit with top offers; his recommitment to State shortly after Dan Mullen was hired was lauded as one of the coach's first big coups after taking the job.



EMERGING STAR

TE Marcus Green

Caught five passes for 56 yards and a touchdown in spring game. ... Has a chance to emerge as a threat in the absence of a deep wide receiving corps. ... A hip injury limited his 2008 season, sidelining him after the first two games of the year. Started a legend of sorts by catching one pass for 50 yards before being shelved for the year. ... Was a highly acclaimed recruit in State's class of 2007, considered one of Mississippi's top prep running backs.



TOP NEWCOMER

RB Vick Ballard

Top contender for starting tailback role after transferring from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, where he was a first-team junior college All-American. ... Ran 14 times for 73 yards and a touchdown in State's spring game. ... Was fourth-leading rusher in the nation in junior college in 2009. ... Was a dual-threat at running back and wide receiver at Pascagoula (Miss.) High. ... Has an all-business, straight-ahead demeanor that has earned his coaches' praise.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	21.5	96
Rushing	137.2	76
Passing	159.9	113
Total	297.2	113

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	23.2	35
Rushing	156.8	58
Passing	174.9	7
Total	331.8	21

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
0	0.0	55

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	15.3	115
Rushing	100.6	105
Passing	174.3	94
Total	274.9	113

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	24.7	60
Rushing	150.9	74
Passing	176.6	19
Total	327.5	35

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-4	-0.33	81

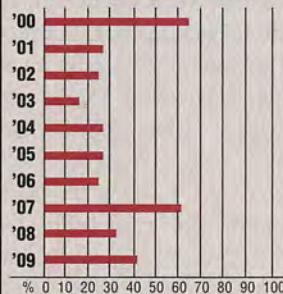
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.6	72
Rushing	227.6	9
Passing	144.3	113
Total	371.9	65

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	26.8	71
Rushing	146.0	62
Passing	220.0	64
Total	366.0	58

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-5	-0.42	87

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS (5-7, 3-5)

W	JACKSON STATE	45-7
L	at Auburn	24-49
W	at Vanderbilt	15-3
L	LSU	26-30
L	GEORGIA TECH	31-42
L	HOUSTON	24-31
W	at Middle Tennessee State	27-6
L	FLORIDA	19-29
W	at Kentucky	31-24
L	ALABAMA	3-31
L	at Arkansas	21-42
W	OLE MISS	41-27

Player Profile



Vick Ballard

No-nonsense Approach Suits Ballard Just Fine

Vick Ballard had taken a long road to get to Mississippi State's Scott Field on April 17. So when he looked up and saw a crowd of 34,127 in the stands for the annual spring game and his first real competition in the big stadium, it was far from intimidating.

It was exhilarating.

"I wasn't nervous," the junior college transfer running back said. "I was excited, really, because I think I worked

hard to get here. It was just, basically, a paycheck."

Ballard played high school ball in Pascagoula, Miss., and then attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, so the spring game easily marked the largest crowd in front of which he had ever played. But to get caught up in that is to not understand Ballard.

He's a straight-ahead, focused guy who rarely smiles. And that's not because he's sour, his old coach at Gulf Coast said. It's because he is simply focused on the task at hand.

"Vick's always been a very serious-minded, focused individual," coach Steve Campbell said. "He's not a lot of chatter, false confidence stuff about him. Very hard-working, serious individual. Serious about his football, serious about his schoolwork."

State hopes that focus stays that way and eventually pays off. In the battle to replace Anthony Dixon at tailback, Ballard, at 5-11, 215 pounds, is one of the options alongside Robert Elliott, LaDarius Perkins and Montrell Conner.

Ballard's running style is no frills; he'd like to think he's in the Dixon mold of a power rusher with a burst of speed. And he's probably right.

In spring practice, Ballard impressed onlookers with his no-nonsense style. Ballard said he had a slow start to spring but began to flourish as he learned more of State's spread offense.

"Very steady player," State coach Dan Mullen said. "Not real flashy; physical runner; tough runner; consistent. You're not going to be wowed by him, but at the end of the day, you say he's a very productive player."

Ballard is in a battle for the tailback spot with as many as three other contenders. But he's been through this before and fought his way through it.

So in typical Ballard style, this isn't altogether overwhelming. At least he's not going to let on that it is.

"It's the SEC; you're going to have competition regardless," Ballard said. "But competition is a good thing, because we make each other better."

er Heath Hutchins and place-kickers Sean Brauchle and Derek DePasquale, who transferred from the Colorado School of Mines because he liked State's engineering department.

Mullen, who also coaches special teams, hopes the kicking game can improve on one quirky stat from last year: The Bulldogs were one of the few teams in the nation without a touchback.

Leon Berry returns as the primary punt and kick returner with help from Chad Bumphis. Berry returned a kickoff for a touchdown last year and is regarded as a decent threat.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

In 2009, State played a murderous schedule that included a visit from Florida and non-conference games against Georgia Tech and Houston. There won't be such a roadblock to bowl eligibility this year.

State still has to travel to Houston, but the rest of the non-conference schedule is fairly benign: Memphis, Alcorn State and UAB at home.

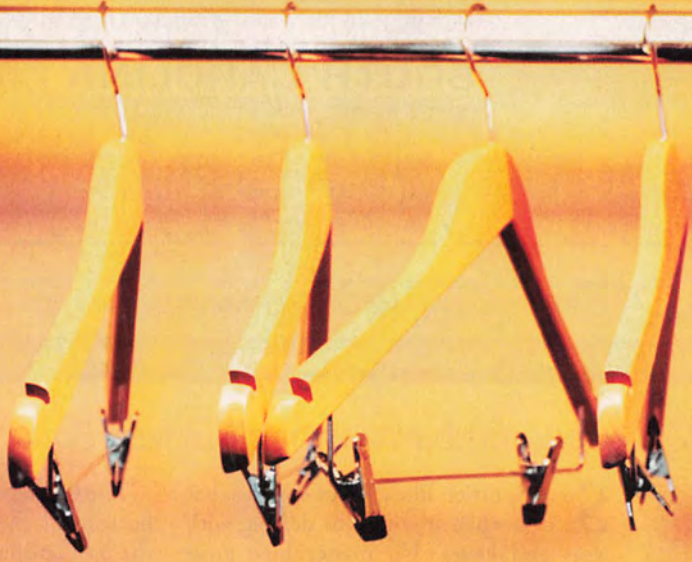
Within the league, State gets no favors on road trips at LSU, Florida, Alabama and Ole Miss. Georgia rotates back on State's schedule; Vanderbilt departs. State does get to play Georgia at home, though.

The Bulldogs second game of the season is a Thursday night game, Sept. 9 at home against Auburn.

— Kyle Veazey

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	MEMPHIS	(2-10)
Sept. 9	AUBURN	(8-5)
Sept. 18	at LSU	(9-4)
Sept. 25	GEORGIA	(8-5)
Oct. 2	ALCORN STATE	(3-6)
Oct. 9	at Houston	(10-4)
Oct. 16	at Florida	(13-1)
Oct. 23	UAB	(5-7)
Oct. 30	KENTUCKY	(7-6)
Nov. 13	at Alabama	(14-0)
Nov. 20	ARKANSAS	(8-5)
Nov. 27	at Ole Miss	(9-4)



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GAMECOCKS

For more coverage of the Gamecocks, visit southcarolina.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Steve Spurrier

Asst. Head Coach/Defense: Ellis Johnson

STADIUM: Williams-Brice Stadium: 80,250

AT A GLANCE

2009

7-6, 3-5 (T-4th, East)

COACH

Steve Spurrier — At South Carolina: 35-28, 5 years; overall: 177-68-2, 20 years.

RETURNING STARTERS

17; 8 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Stephen Garcia, WR Alshon Jeffery, DE Cliff Matthews, CB Stephon Gilmore, SS DeVonte Holloman

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

South Carolina dealt with key injuries last year but still managed to field the league's third-best defense behind Alabama and Florida. End Cliff Matthews' ability to get pressure will be key, as will linebacker Rodney Paulk's return from knee surgery. The offense has significantly fewer question marks than a year ago at the skill positions.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The offensive line is on its third position coach in as many years. Can Shawn Elliott get consistency out of this group, which returns several players? There simply has to be some drop-off after losing OLB Eric Norwood, the school's career leader in sacks and tackles for loss. Shaq Wilson and Paulk are able at linebacker, but it's a big hole to fill.

KEY LOSSES

WR Moe Brown, C Garrett Anderson, OLB Eric Norwood, SS Darian Stewart

OVERVIEW

The Gamecocks are still trying to get over the hump. Beating Clemson lifted everyone sky high to close the 2009 regular season, but a toe-stubbing bowl loss to Connecticut sent everyone hurtling back to earth. This team has a chance to be Top 25 worthy if it can get solid line play and some unexpected contributors. One thing's for sure: This division is as wide open as it's ever going to be.

Bowl 'Embarrassment' Drives Spurrier, Gamecocks

Steve Spurrier, like a lot of coaches, has a rule when it comes to dealing with wins and losses. No matter how great the victory, or horrendous the defeat, the team has 24 hours to celebrate or mourn. Then it's time to move on.

Spurrier is in serious violation of his own policy.

Months have come and gone, and South Carolina's sixth-year coach is still all torn up about the Gamecocks laying a giant egg in the Papajohns.com Bowl against Connecticut.

Spurrier thought the team was prepared. A thorough 20-7 defeat — one that felt much, much worse — indicated South Carolina was not.

"Maybe you guys got over it," Spurrier said in April. "I can't get over it. That was an embarrassment. We're trying to hope that never happens again here at South Carolina."

So, with so many pundits signaling that it might finally be Spurrier's time to break through at South Carolina because of returning talent and the division's relative weakness, Spurrier is recommending a brake check.

See it before believing it, he cautions.

"We're certainly not a very good team yet," Spurrier said. "Don't sing many praises about us yet. We do have a lot of good players, though. We do have a chance. But not until we earn it. You don't need to talk too kindly about the Gamecocks until we do something."

"Wait and see on the Gamecocks, OK?"

He makes it sound as if South Carolina is back at the drawing board. But the Gamecocks aren't working with a blank canvas. They have a lot of experience and star power.

The key to unlocking success is the team's offensive line. South Carolina has plodded in that territory in Spurrier's stint, with little progress and few results.

The Gamecocks have hovered near the bottom of the league in sacks allowed the past couple of seasons. They yielded 37 last season, a figure that makes you shudder for the kind of abuse quarterback Stephen Garcia has taken. Those sacks amounted to 254 lost rushing yards.

South Carolina has been last in the SEC in rushing in each of the past three years, near the bottom of the national ranks in the category. When the run game goes wrong, Spurrier hits eject and the Gamecocks get pass-happy.

Without proper balance, they've struggled to maintain any offensive consistency. Fans are hopeful top running back recruit Marcus Lattimore can help the rushing attack.

On cue, here comes Shawn Elliott, the team's third offensive line coach in as many years. John Hunt was fired and his replacement, Eric Wolford, left for a head coaching gig at Youngstown State.

OFFENSE

New offensive line coach Shawn Elliott spent the better part of two decades as a player and coach at Appalachian State, where he was part of three consecutive Football Championship Subdivision national titles.

He brings an intensity that immediately grabbed his players' attentions.

"He really does raise the expectations we have for this team and this O-line," said Jarriel King, a senior who has played on the left side of the line. "He forces us to do more than we're expected to do."

King is an interesting case study. Many are curious to see if Elliott can draw more than his predecessors from King, a 6-5, 310-pound specimen that has the frame of an NFL left tackle.

Look for the possibility of incoming freshmen such as A.J. Cann and



Alshon Jeffery Photo by Dale Zanine-US PRESSWIRE



Weslye Saunders

Du'Von Millsap getting opportunities, especially late in the season. Look, too, for the emergence of Rokevious Watkins, a junior college product who red-shirted last season and could grab one of the guard spots.

As much as the line might be a work in progress, Elliott said there's no time to wait for prosperity.

"I want to see them play well, right away," said Elliott, who also holds the title of run game coordinator. "Isn't that what we're all here for? That's certainly my goal, their goal, this team's goal."

In fairness, those sacks aren't entirely the line's fault. Stephen Garcia has admitted he needs to do a better job of getting rid of the ball. Spurrier concurs.

That was one focal point of the spring. The other was Garcia's accuracy.

As a redshirt sophomore, in his first extended playing experience, Garcia threw for 2,862 yards. Nothing wrong with

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Stephen Garcia*	Jr.	Made jump last year, needs another this season.	Connor Shaw, Fr.
RB	Kenny Miles*	So.	Durable back, but not necessarily most talented.	Marcus Lattimore, Fr.
WR	Alshon Jeffery*	So.	A natural big-play threat who could be a superstar.	Stephen Flint, Jr.
WR	Tori Gurley	So.	At new position, can play with Jeffery at same time.	Dion LeCron, Sr.
WR	Jason Barnes*	Jr.	Steady performer still has more in the tank.	D.L. Moore, So.
TE	Weslye Saunders*	Sr.	NFL prospect faced increased competition in spring.	Pat DiMarco, Sr.
LT	Jarriel King*	Sr.	Last chance for big man. Has physical ability, for sure.	Quintin Richardson, Jr.
LG	Garrett Chisolm	Sr.	Walk-on is a physical specimen, learning on fly.	Nick Allison, Fr.
C	T.J. Johnson*	So.	Moving from guard; coaches love his leadership.	Ryan Broadhead, Jr.
RG	Terrence Campbell	Sr.	Been around forever. Has battled shoulder ailment.	Rokevious Watkins, Jr.
RT	Kyle Nunn*	Jr.	After initially underachieving, Nunn is coming around.	Hutch Eckerson, Sr.
K	Spencer Lanning*	Sr.	Lanning was solid in his first season (17 of 20 FGs).	Joey Scribner-Howard, Jr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Devin Taylor	So.	Pressed into duty by early departure, but he's ready.	Aldrick Fordham, So.
DT	Travian Robertson	Jr.	Back from knee injury. Tough customer.	Melvin Ingram, Jr.
DT	Ladi Ajiboye*	Sr.	Played in program forever. Solid plug-and-play guy.	Kenny Davis, So.
DE	Cliff Matthews*	Sr.	Best athlete on team, perhaps. NFL-ready right now.	Byron McKnight, Jr.
LB	Shaq Wilson*	Jr.	Stepped in ably at MLB last year; moves over this year.	Tony Straughter, Sr.
LB	Rodney Paulk	Sr.	Back from knee injury, he's a crucial part to defense.	Josh Dickerson, Sr.
Spur	Antonio Allen*	Jr.	Improving player at hybrid linebacker-safety spot.	Damario Jeffery, So.
CB	Stephon Gilmore*	So.	Could play in NFL right now. Amazing talent.	Jay Spearman, So.
CB	Chris Culliver*	Sr.	Switched from safety. Is he too much of a showboat?	C.C. Whitlock, Jr.
SS	DeVonte Holloman	So.	Look for big jump from him in first full-time year.	Corey Addison, Fr.
FS	Akeem Auguste*	Jr.	Moves from cornerback. Can he hack it?	D.J. Swearingen, So.
P	Spencer Lanning*	Sr.	Lanning is consistently solid (41.9) and experienced.	Eric Davis, So.

*Returning Starter

that, but he completed only 55 percent of his throws. That needs to improve.

He'll have help. South Carolina isn't hurting for offensive weaponry.

Wide receiver Alshon Jeffery could be a big help in improving Garcia's completion percentage. The sophomore burst onto the scene halfway through last season, making all but five of his 46 catches after the fifth game.

Jeffery is a monster at 6-4, 237, even if he isn't the fastest player on the field. He catches whatever is thrown in his vicinity.

Freshman Ace Sanders could fill the offense's need for a smaller, quicker receiver. Tori Gurley, another big receiver like Jeffery, is learning the slot so he and Jeffery can be on the field at the same time.

Sophomore running back Jarvis Giles didn't do much as a freshman, but no one has given up on his impact ability. He is versatile enough to make catches out of

the backfield and ankle-breaking cuts after he gets loose.

And then there's Marcus Lattimore. No one's quite sure what his immediate impact will be, but he seems to like the spotlight.

DEFENSE

The Gamecocks spent the spring with what assistant head coach Ellis Johnson called a shell of his usual group.

"We're not really a unit right now," Johnson said in April.

All-SEC-caliber players such as defensive end Cliff Matthews and safety-turned-cornerback Chris Culliver sat out the spring, recovering from offseason surgery. Without those guys and others, the Gamecocks used the spring to build depth that might help them when the season arrives.

Among those who should have benefit-



Marcus Lattimore

There's not much Lattimore can't do. He's physical as a downhill back and can handle a huge workload. He also has good speed. Lattimore has shown natural pass-catching ability. The five-star prospect was the nation's top running back in the 2010 class.



Victor Hampton

There is a lot to like about Hampton's abilities as a cornerback. He has very good speed, is an instinctual defender and asserts himself in the run game. He also has value in the return game. Off-field trouble has had a way of finding Hampton in high school. If he is able to stay focused, he has the potential to be an All-SEC level defender.



Kelcy Quarles

Quarles has a body for a defensive lineman. He has a long torso and long arms, though he could use some added mass in the lower body. His explosiveness off the snap is what sets him apart. It may be hard to keep him off of the field even as a freshman.

2011 NEEDS

Though they landed the top running back in the country in 2010, the Gamecocks will look for two more in 2011 — a speed back and a big back. Tight end will be a pressing need in the 2011 class, and it is not unlikely that they bring in at least two. Offensive line and defensive line will be important as well.

Commitments	23
Average Stars	3.04
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	1
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	5
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	11
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	6
Total Stars	70
National Rank: 24	SEC: 8



Sharrod Golightly

Not a lot sticks out about Golightly, who is slightly undersized for a safety and not very fast for a cornerback. However, he is always around the ball, is a sure tackler and has a great feel for the game.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Javon Bell	WR	5-11	170	★★	Jacksonville, FL	Ribault
Caught 48 passes for 1,256 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior...Chose South Carolina over Florida International and Illinois.						
A.J. Cann	OL	6-3	260	★★★★	Bamberg, SC	Bamberg-Ehrhardt
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 9 prospect in South Carolina...Rated as the nation's No. 2 center...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.						
Patrick Fish	K	6-0	175	★★	Lawndale, NC	Burns
Rated as the nation's No. 23 kicker by Rivals.com...Also received interest from Duke and Illinois.						
Cody Gibson	OL	6-6	265	★★★	Tallahassee, FL	Lincoln
Rated as the nation's No. 64 offensive tackle by Rivals.com...Chose South Carolina over South Florida and East Carolina.						
Toquavius Gilchrist	LB	6-2	230	★★★★	El Dorado, KS	Butler County C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 24 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Recorded 61 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks in 2009...Enrolled at South Carolina in January.						
Sharrod Golightly	DB	5-11	180	★★★	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb
Rated as the No. 64 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 56 safety...Recorded 113 tackles, three sacks and two interceptions as a senior...Chose South Carolina over Vanderbilt and Ole Miss.						
Brandon Golson	LB	6-2	200	★★★	St. Matthews, SC	Calhoun County
Rated as the No. 22 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 22 outside linebacker...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas...Had 113 tackles and 30 sacks as a senior.						
Victor Hampton	DB	5-11	170	★★★★	Darlington, SC	Darlington
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in South Carolina...Rated as the nation's No. 6 cornerback...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Recorded 50 tackles and three interceptions as a senior.						
Byron Jerideau	DT	6-0	315	★★	Fort Scott, KS	Fort Scott C.C.
Recorded 70 tackles, 16 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks while helping lead team to 11-1 record in 2009...Will have three years to play three at South Carolina.						
Nick Jones	WR	5-8	170	★★★	Duncan, SC	Byrnes
Rated as the No. 25 prospect in South Carolina...Had 32 receptions for 347 yards and four touchdowns as a senior.						
Marcus Lattimore	RB	6-0	210	★★★★★	Duncan, SC	Byrnes
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in South Carolina...Rated as the nation's No. 1 running back...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas...Rushed for 1,898 yards and 31 touchdowns as a senior.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Du'Von Millsap	OL	6-6	315	★★★★	Buford, GA	Buford
Rated as the No. 72 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 40 offensive guard...Chose South Carolina over Ole Miss and Oklahoma State.						
Ronald Patrick	OL	6-2	280	★★★★	Cocoa, FL	Cocoa
Three-year starter in high school...Helped lead his team to 14-1 record and 3A state title as a junior.						
Kelcy Quarles	DT	6-4	265	★★★★★	Greenwood, SC	Greenwood
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 7 prospect in South Carolina...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas...Recorded 77 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss and nine sacks as a senior.						
Corey Robinson	OL	6-7	295	★★★	Havelock, NC	Havelock
Rated as the nation's No. 52 offensive tackle by Rivals.com...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.						
Ace Sanders	WR	5-9	165	★★★★	Bradenton, FL	Manatee
Rated as the No. 42 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 44 wide receiver...Caught 65 passes for 990 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior.						
Cadarious Sanders	DB	6-1	187	★★★	LaGrange, GA	Troup
Played cornerback and returned punts and kickoffs at Troup High School...Chose South Carolina over Ole Miss, Louisville, Southern Miss, MTSU and Central Florida.						
Connor Shaw	QB	6-2	195	★★★★	Flowery Branch, GA	Flowery Branch
Rated as the No. 47 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 19 dual-threat quarterback...Threw for 3,100 yards and 30 touchdowns as a senior...Enrolled at South Carolina in January.						
Corey Simmons	DE	6-4	230	★★	Norcross, GA	Greater Atlanta Christian
Participated in Gwinnett County All-Star Game...Father, Clyde Simmons Jr., was two-time Pro Bowl selection in the NFL.						
J.T. Surratt	DT	6-3	285	★★	Winston-Salem, NC	Parkland
Had 78 tackles, 19 tackles for loss and 15 sacks as a senior...Participated in East-West All-Star Game...Chose South Carolina over Louisville, East Carolina, Marshall and Western Carolina.						
Dylan Thompson	QB	6-3	201	★★	Boiling Springs, SC	Boiling Springs
Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas...Threw for 1,300 yards in six games as a junior...Also a standout in basketball.						
Brisen Williams	DB	6-0	180	★★★	Warner Robins, GA	Northside School
Rated as the No. 34 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 36 cornerback...Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Classic.						
Tramell Williams	OL	6-2	260	★★★★	Jacksonville, FL	Robert E. Lee
Rated as the No. 58 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 9 center...Selected as team captain.						

No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No. Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
8 Corey Addison	SS	5-11	206	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL	34 Spencer Lanning	P/PK	6-0	188	Sr.	Rock Hill
91 Ladi Ajiboye	DT	6-2	278	Sr.	Riverdale, GA	18 Dion LeCorn	WR	6-0	211	Sr.	Ocala, FL
26 Antonio Allen	Spur	6-1	201	Jr.	Ocala, FL	35 Jimmy Legree	CB	5-11	179	Fr.	Beaufort
71 Nick Allison	OG	6-4	301	Fr.	Asheville, NC	84 Kyle Madden	TE	6-3	242	So.	Powder Springs, GA
3 Akeem Auguste	FS	5-10	186	Jr.	Hollywood, FL	10 Brian Maddox	TB	5-10	230	Sr.	Anderson
28 Eric Baker	TB	5-11	181	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL	39 Marty Markett	CB	5-9	168	Jr.	Rock Hill
43 Jacob Baker	FB	5-9	189	So.	Ridgeland	83 Cliff Matthews	DE	6-4	260	Sr.	Cheraw
4 Jason Barnes	WR	6-4	206	Jr.	Charlotte, NC	92 Byron McKnight	DE	6-5	239	Jr.	Laurinburg, NC
49 Blake Baxley	DB	5-9	198	Sr.	Columbia	31 Kenny Miles	TB	5-9	187	So.	Lawrenceville, GA
80 DeMario Bennett	WR	6-2	177	Fr.	Douglas, GA	82 D.L. Moore	WR	6-4	198	So.	Bowling Green, KY
32 Reginald Bowers	LB	6-2	236	So.	Holly Springs, NC	90 Joshua Newton	PK	6-2	205	So.	Aiken
17 Zac Brindise	QB	6-1	205	Jr.	Fort Myers, FL	68 Kyle Nunn	OT	6-6	304	Jr.	Sumter
65 Ryan Broadhead	OL	6-5	270	Jr.	Leesburg, GA	31 Matt O'Brien	FS	6-0	185	Fr.	New Milford, NJ
11 Jarrett Burns	Spur	6-2	187	So.	Huntsville, AL	45 Rodney Paulk	LB	6-0	226	Sr.	Columbia
99 Ronald Byrd	DT	6-7	261	Fr.	LaGrange, GA	72 Quintin Richardson	OT	6-4	276	Jr.	Columbia
50 Billy Byrne	LB	5-11	222	Fr.	Palm Harbor, FL	42 Travian Robertson	DT	6-5	298	Jr.	Laurinburg, NC
60 Terrence Campbell	OG	6-3	183	Sr.	Austell, GA	88 Wesley Saunders	TE	6-6	273	Sr.	Durham, NC
77 Garrett Chisolm	OT	6-6	299	Sr.	Charleston	46 Joey Scribner-Howard	P/PK	6-1	209	Jr.	Irmo
12 Andrew Clifford	QB	6-2	225	Fr.	Tampa, FL	11 Lamar Scruggs	WR	6-2	221	Fr.	Jacksonville Beach, FL
48 Matt Coffee	FB	5-10	226	Fr.	Mary Esther, FL	14 Connor Shaw	QB	6-0	199	Fr.	Flowery Branch, GA
17 Chris Culliver	FS	6-1	197	Sr.	Garner, NC	28 Jared Shaw	DB	5-10	185	So.	Fort Mill
87 Justice Cunningham	TE	6-3	261	So.	Pageland	22 Bryce Sherman	TB	5-4	152	So.	Winston-Salem, NC
23 Brandon Davis	CB	5-11	178	Jr.	Columbia	75 Steven Singleton	OG	6-2	303	Sr.	Buford, GA
42 Eric Davis	P	6-2	177	So.	Newberry	6 DeAngelo Smith	WR	6-1	175	Fr.	Kingsland, GA
94 Kenny Davis	DT	6-3	285	So.	Newberry	30 Quin Smith	LB	6-0	225	Fr.	Lenoir, NC
41 Josh Dickerson	LB	6-1	220	Sr.	Kingsland, GA	4 Cedrick Snead	WR	5-7	177	Jr.	Garner, NC
47 Patrick DiMarco	FB	6-1	234	Sr.	Altamonte Springs, FL	20 Jay Spearman	CB	6-0	191	So.	Greenwood
66 Hutch Eckerson	OT	6-6	287	Sr.	Lumberton, NC	44 Tony Straughter	LB	6-0	210	Sr.	Madison, FL
86 Stephen Flint	WR	6-2	199	Jr.	Mt. Pleasant	8 Seth Strickland	QB	6-2	192	So.	Laurens
52 Aldrick Fordham	DE	6-4	255	So.	Jamestown	90 Chaz Sutton	DE	6-3	249	Fr.	Savannah, GA
5 Stephen Garcia	QB	6-2	230	Jr.	Lutz, FL	36 D.J. Swearinger	FS	5-11	201	So.	Greenwood
43 Toquavius Gilchrist	LB	6-1	224	So.	Abbeville	98 Devin Taylor	DE	6-8	244	So.	Beaufort
3 Jarvis Giles	TB	5-11	185	So.	Tampa, FL	89 Mike Triglia	TE	6-3	242	So.	Jacksonville, FL
5 Stephon Gilmore	CB	6-1	188	So.	Rock Hill	59 Charles Turner	DS	6-5	242	Sr.	Roebuck
29 Chaun Gresham	DE	6-1	229	Fr.	Auburn, GA	67 Chris Vaughn	DS	6-0	268	Jr.	Columbia
69 Matthew Grooms	DS	6-0	240	Sr.	McColl	73 Rokevious Watkins	OG	6-4	319	Jr.	Fairburn, GA
81 Tori Gurley	WR	6-5	230	So.	Rock Hill	85 Kevin White	WR	6-2	197	Jr.	North Charleston
57 C.J. Heinz	P	6-2	199	So.	Irmo	12 C.C. Whitlock	CB	5-10	176	Jr.	Chester
21 DeVonte Holloman	SS	6-3	226	So.	Rock Hill	7 Addison Williams	CB	5-8	177	Sr.	Atlanta, GA
51 Walker Inabinet	DS	5-10	191	So.	Columbia	46 Dalton Wilson	FB	6-0	227	So.	Williston
6 Melvin Ingram	DT	6-2	278	Jr.	Hamlet, NC	16 Shaq Wilson	LB	5-10	226	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL
1 Alshon Jeffery	WR	6-4	237	So.	St. Matthews	25 Alonzo Winfield	SS	6-0	222	So.	Winston-Salem, NC
33 Damario Jeffery	Spur	6-3	225	So.	Columbia	18 Jay Wooten	P/PK	6-3	198	Jr.	Laurinburg, NC
55 T.J. Johnson	OG	6-5	305	So.	Aynor	81 Adam Yates	PK	6-0	210	So.	Sparks, MD
76 Jarriel King	OL	6-5	310	Sr.	North Charleston						

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
S. Garcia	13	119.3	239	432	10	55.3	2862	17	80	220.2
R. McCollum	2	176.3	4	6	0	66.7	39	1	20	19.5

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
A. Jeffery	13	46	763	16.6	6	80	58.7
M. Brown	12	33	491	14.9	3	69	40.9
W. Saunders	12	32	353	11.0	3	30	29.4

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
K. Miles	13	117	640	14	626	5.4	1	26	48.2
B. Maddox	13	102	326	19	307	3.0	6	14	23.6
J. Giles	11	52	298	21	277	5.3	1	38	25.2

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: S. Wilson 85, E. Norwood 81, C. Culliver 62
 Tackles for loss: E. Norwood 11.5, C. Matthews 10, C. Geathers 8.5
 Sacks: E. Norwood 7, C. Matthews 7, C. Geathers 3.5
 Interceptions: E. Norwood 2, four tied with one

You're liable to see more of sophomore **Stephon Gilmore** at quarterback this year, but don't expect his moonlighting gig to get in the way of his primary one. Defensive head coach **Ellis Johnson** will see to that.

"If he can help us win, that's what we've got to do," Johnson said of Gilmore playing in the Wild Gamecock formation. "He could probably play 15 positions on the team, but he wants to be an NFL defensive back."

Steve Spurrier contends the offense needs Gilmore for a spark from time to time. In his only game experience at quarterback, Gilmore led a 70-yard touchdown drive. He completed a 40-yard pass on the scoring march.

Gilmore's fullback in the formation is defensive tackle **Melvin Ingram**, a 278-pound former high school running back who did receive carries in some spring scrimmages.

"You've just got to go hard on either side of the ball you're on," said Ingram, a junior. "Whatever to help the team out."

• Opposing defenses have struggled to figure out a way to stop receiver **Alshon Jeffery**, but Jeffery needs to be careful not to stop himself.

Jeffery sat for a handful of spring practices because he wasn't taking care of his academic load. As a special admit to the university, there's a microscope on Jeffery's classroom work.

If Jeffery misses enough classes, he could be forced to sit out a game. That happened last year to cornerback **C.C. Whitlock** and running back **Jarvis Giles**, among others.

• Giles insists he didn't think too hard about transferring, but those close to him indicate otherwise.

Despite a 100-yard game early in the season, against Florida Atlantic, Giles didn't have nearly the impact that was expected. The Tampa, Fla., product had only 13 carries after Oct. 13.

Spurrier said Giles wasn't big enough to handle the SEC schedule. Giles, who's already stronger, blames himself for not contributing more.

"I made excuses for myself," Giles said. "I didn't look in the mirror and say, 'I need to work a little bit harder.'"

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On the state of the program: "Still a little bit of a sleeping giant waiting to awaken. ... It looks like they're getting close to being able to step up in the same league with Florida and Georgia and Alabama to compete for a championship."

• On recent South Carolina teams: "It's been South Carolina's history to start fast and stumble somewhere along the line. How did they let Tennessee beat them last year? You're talking about a team with a lot of talent. It all goes back to the quarterback. ... If you don't get good quarterback play, it's difficult."

• On Steve Spurrier: "I thought Spurrier would succeed more. He's had some success. He's beaten Florida, Tennessee twice and always played Georgia close. What I've seen are teams that start out great and don't finish strong."

Stephon Gilmore

opener, Shaq Wilson was thrust into the position and had enough experience and talent to hack it.

Wilson led the Gamecocks with 85 tackles, logging more than All-American Eric Norwood. Now Wilson slides to Norwood's outside linebacker spot and Paulk is back and healthy in the middle.

Junior college transfers Josh Dickerson, Qua Gilchrist and Tony Straughter provide good depth at both spots.

The Gamecocks have a possible SEC Defensive Player of the Year candidate in sophomore cornerback Stephon Gilmore. He walked on campus ready to play in the toughest conference in America. Now, he's smart enough and physical enough to make an NFL roster.

At 6-1, 188 pounds, Gilmore is bigger than your average corner. He has good ball instincts and hitting power. He's a special talent in the league.

Gilmore's high school teammate, DeVonte Holloman, could be ready for a similar breakout season at strong safety.

Chris Culliver and Akeem Auguste, both veterans, are flip-flopping their spots, with Culliver heading to corner and Auguste moving to safety. Swearingner, though, is pushing Auguste at that spot.

All told, even without Norwood, it's a defense that should be better than the one that finished third in the SEC a year ago.

What the defense is truly searching for, though, is a pass rush beyond just the ultra-talented and NFL-ready Matthews. Wilson is a bit undersized, so that hurts his rush ability. End Devin Taylor is still growing into his lanky frame.

The tackles need to pick up their pressure. Ladi Ajiboye and the beef in the middle are good at stopping the run, but could stand to figure out how to better get to the quarterback.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Spencer Lanning's first field-goal try last year was far from memorable — he

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

CB Stephon Gilmore

The sophomore fits the bill well before you consider he's also a viable weapon playing quarterback. ... He led a touchdown drive against Clemson and could easily do it again this season against name-your-opponent U. Gilmore just seems to get it, athletically. ... Had three sacks, six tackles for loss and one interception last season, also breaking up eight passes and forcing two fumbles. ... Enjoy Gilmore while you've got him, Gamecocks fans. He won't be hanging around four years.



EMERGING STAR

WR Alshon Jeffery

It took Jeffery a half-dozen games to get rolling as a freshman, but he was quite good once he found his groove. Jeffery had just five catches for 56 yards in the first five games, but he finished with 46 catches and 763 yards. It added up to a Freshman All-America season. ... He had three touchdown receptions against Kentucky. ... His follow-up act figures to be special. Jeffery isn't blazing fast, but he's a physical, 6-4 specimen with a knack for hauling in the deep ball.



TOP NEWCOMER

RB Marcus Lattimore

South Carolina needs a running game, and it has new hope in Lattimore. The in-state product looks as though he'll be a durable, between-the-tackles sort of guy. Pair him with a dangerously versatile player such as sophomore Jarvis Giles, and the Gamecocks could turn the corner in balancing out their offensive game plan. ... He was South Carolina's Mr. Football and one of the top recruits in the nation after rushing for 6,375 yards and scoring 104 touchdowns in his high school career.



ted: Safety D.J. Swearingner, cornerback Jimmy Legree, tackle Kenny Davis and safety Corey Addison.

Depth has been one major weakness of the Gamecocks defense, but it's been improving. That's key when injuries inevitably surface in the brutal SEC season.

Take last year, for example. When Rodney Paulk, poised for a big year at middle linebacker, tore up his knee in the season

2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	26.1	70
Rushing	113.7	101
Passing	258.2	37
Total	371.8	77

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	23.5	39
Rushing	209.2	110
Passing	168.8	12
Total	378.9	56

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-7	-0.58	101

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.8	96
Rushing	94.1	112
Passing	222.5	50
Total	316.5	97

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	21.1	31
Rushing	132.7	42
Passing	159.2	2
Total	291.9	14

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-11	-0.85	107

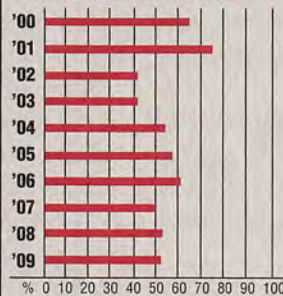
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.6	102
Rushing	121.2	91
Passing	226.2	47
Total	347.4	82

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.4	24
Rushing	137.7	52
Passing	163.0	8
Total	300.7	15

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-4	-0.31	81

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

(7-6, 3-5)		
W	at NC State	7-3
L	at Georgia	37-41
W	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	38-16
W	OLE MISS	16-10
W	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	38-14
W	KENTUCKY	28-26
L	at Alabama	6-20
W	VANDERBILT	14-10
L	at Tennessee	13-31
L	at Arkansas	16-33
L	FLORIDA	14-24
W	CLEMSON	34-17
Papajohns.com Bowl		
L	vs. Connecticut	7-20

Player Profile



Photo by Paul Abell-US PRESSWIRE

Stephen Garcia

Spurrier's Criticism Fuels Garcia's Fire

Quarterback Stephen Garcia was one of the SEC's statistical stars in 2009, passing for more than 2,800 yards.

Listen to his coach, however, and you'd think Garcia scuffled through his sophomore season.

Steve Spurrier, notoriously as hard on his quarterbacks as any coach in the country, doesn't hold back when it comes to Garcia. He sees more in Garcia than the fourth-year junior has been giving.

"He needs to perform better, needs to

play better, make a commitment on how to play the game," Spurrier said. "We keep thinking Stephen's going to really get better and something happens to him. He performs pretty similarly, to me, all the time."

And those are some of the milder comments Spurrier had about Garcia earlier this year. Garcia said he was admittedly "upset" about the Ol' Ball Coach questioning his heart.

"It is motivation," Garcia said, "and I'm going to have to use it as motivation and try to prove him wrong."

For sure, it figured to be an interesting summer leading into preseason camp and the 2010 season.

Spurrier and quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus worked in the spring with Garcia's delivery. Mangus demonstrated that Garcia doesn't align his shoulders properly toward his target, particularly on throws to the right.

The ultimate goal is improving accuracy, one of Garcia's downfalls in 2009, which was a pretty successful season (despite Spurrier's grouching).

Garcia completed 55.3 percent of his passes a year ago. The coaches want to see Garcia up in the 60s.

They also want to see him get rid of the ball in a more timely fashion. Scrambling and playing off-the-cuff football are certainly Garcia's calling cards, but he takes a good deal of the blame for the Gamecocks giving up 37 sacks last season.

One reason Spurrier is turning up the temperature on Garcia is because, unlike last season, he feels as if he has a viable No. 2 option. Freshman Connor Shaw has been described by Spurrier as a "football junkie." Shaw, the son of a Georgia high school coach and brother of Georgia Southern quarterback Jaybo Shaw, already has opened eyes with his focus and willingness to learn.

Spurrier has one of the quickest hooks in the game, in terms of pulling a quarterback. Could we see another quarterback carousel this fall? Absolutely.

"We will play two," Spurrier said, "if the first guy doesn't play the way the coaches ask him to play."

blew a 27-yarder well left in a tight 7-3 win at North Carolina State — but Lanning picked it up from there.

The junior only missed two more kicks the entire season — one was blocked and the other was from 50-plus yards, to finish 17-for-20. Lanning, filling the dual role of kicker and punter, also averaged nearly 42 yards a punt.

His coaches would like to rest him this year on kickoffs. Joey Scribner-Howard, a transfer, might break through there.

The return game has been relatively quiet, but Stephon Gilmore has given a spark to punt returns. A wild card could be former track All-American Marty Morkett, a walk-on with world-class speed and decent size.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Does it ever get any easier in the SEC? This is South Carolina's most opportune schedule in recent memory.

The Gamecocks get Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas at home. An early season trip to Auburn, one of the rotational West opponents, will be tricky. But it's perhaps better to see the Tigers early than late.

Trips to Florida and Clemson lurk, but at least the team should have itself in order by late November.

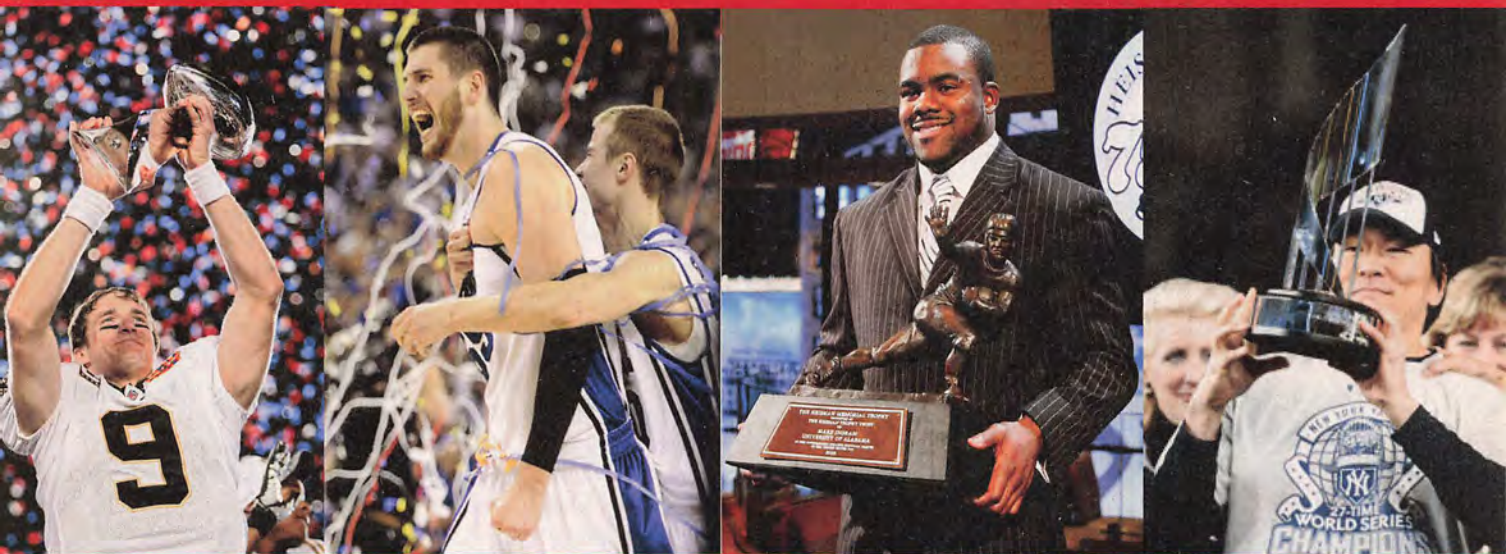
North Carolina bailed on its 2010 game with the Gamecocks to play LSU. They instead got Southern Miss in their opener — probably a good thing considering the Tar Heels are on the uptick.

— Travis Haney

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 2	SOUTHERN MISS	(7-6)
Sept. 11	GEORGIA	(8-5)
Sept. 18	FURMAN	(6-5)
Sept. 25	at Auburn	(8-5)
Oct. 9	ALABAMA	(14-0)
Oct. 16	at Kentucky	(7-6)
Oct. 23	at Vanderbilt	(2-10)
Oct. 30	TENNESSEE	(7-6)
Nov. 6	ARKANSAS	(8-5)
Nov. 13	at Florida	(13-1)
Nov. 20	TROY	(9-4)
Nov. 27	at Clemson	(9-5)

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VOLUNTEERS

For more coverage of the Volunteers, visit tennessee.rivals.com

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jim Chaney

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Justin Wilcox

STADIUM: Neyland Stadium, 102,037

AT A GLANCE

2009

7-6, 4-4 SEC (T-2nd, East)

COACH

Derek Dooley — At Tennessee: 1st year; overall: 17-20, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS

12; 4 offense, 6 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

RB Tauren Poole, WR Gerald Jones, TE Luke Stocker, DE Chris Walker, LB Nick Reveiz, FS Janzen Jackson, DT Montori Hughes

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

A defense that allowed only 22.2 points per game and held Alabama and Florida to 35 combined points has a solid starting lineup. DE Chris Walker (back) and MLB Nick Reveiz (torn ACL) must stay healthy. The Vols have pass-catching targets, led by Jones and Stocker. Poole is ready for a breakout season.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The Vols lost all five starters from the offensive line and they're breaking in a new QB — not a combination for success. The defense lost both starting tackles and has little depth at the position. Four linebackers missed all or part of spring ball due to injuries. And the secondary must replace All-American Eric Berry.

KEY LOSSES

DB Eric Berry, DT Dan Williams, LB Rico McCoy, RB Montario Hardesty, QB Jonathan Crompton

OVERVIEW

The Vols are facing a major rebuilding job. The talent level isn't close to the elite teams in the SEC, and uncertainty along the offensive line and at quarterback makes this a dicey situation for a first-year coach with a new system. UT has had just two seven-loss seasons in history and no eight-loss season. There's a reason we bring this up.

Dooley's To-Do List Goes On and On and On ...

Derek Dooley knows what it's like to rebuild at an SEC school. He was on Nick Saban's staff at LSU in 2000 when the Tigers were coming off eight losing seasons in 11 years.

As Tennessee's coach, Dooley has a major challenge. The Vols have had two losing seasons in four years and three coaches in 14 months. They have 78 players on scholarship. They lack depth on the offensive line. They have no quarterback who has taken a snap in an SEC game.

And since Phillip Fulmer was fired, the program has lost 33 players — 12 who de-committed from Fulmer and 21 who were kicked off the team or quit. UT ended the spring with 60 scholarship players, including eight mid-term enrollees.

At quarterback, Tennessee's apparent starter-in-waiting, Nick Stephens, quit days after he was demoted to third team, leaving junior college transfer Matt Simms and mid-term enrollee Tyler Bray to man the all-important position. Neither showed the consistency necessary to be an effective SEC quarterback.

In the spring game, UT couldn't fill both offensive lines with scholarship players. The defensive tackles got a boost when two ends were moved inside, one of whom goes 6-5 and 253 pounds. Four linebackers were sidelined by injury.

And two other players expected to make huge contributions — Freshman All-American left tackle Aaron Douglas and running back Bryce Brown — decided to transfer.

All the attrition made it hard for Dooley to accomplish what he wanted during spring practice.

"You shape your offense and defense around your players," said Dooley, who kept two coaches from the previous staff. "We weren't able to do that until the latter part of spring. We spent the first half of spring figuring out what we had, what guys could do and what their

limitations were."

The talent Dooley inherits has been compared to what Johnny Majors inherited in 1977 when he went 4-7 in his first season. That was one of only two seven-loss seasons in UT history. The Vols have never had an eight-loss season.

A losing season is what many insiders project for this year, but defensive end Chris Walker relishes the lack of respect.

"I love it," Walker said. "We've heard what people have said about our offensive line and defensive line. We've taken it to heart. We're going to dominate."

On offense, Dooley likes to run the play set and utilize the tight end.

On defense, new coordinator Justin Wilcox will run a different scheme than that of Monte Kiffin, with more stunting, stemming and blitzing.

Dooley's philosophy for this team is simple: "Do the common things uncommonly well."

OFFENSE

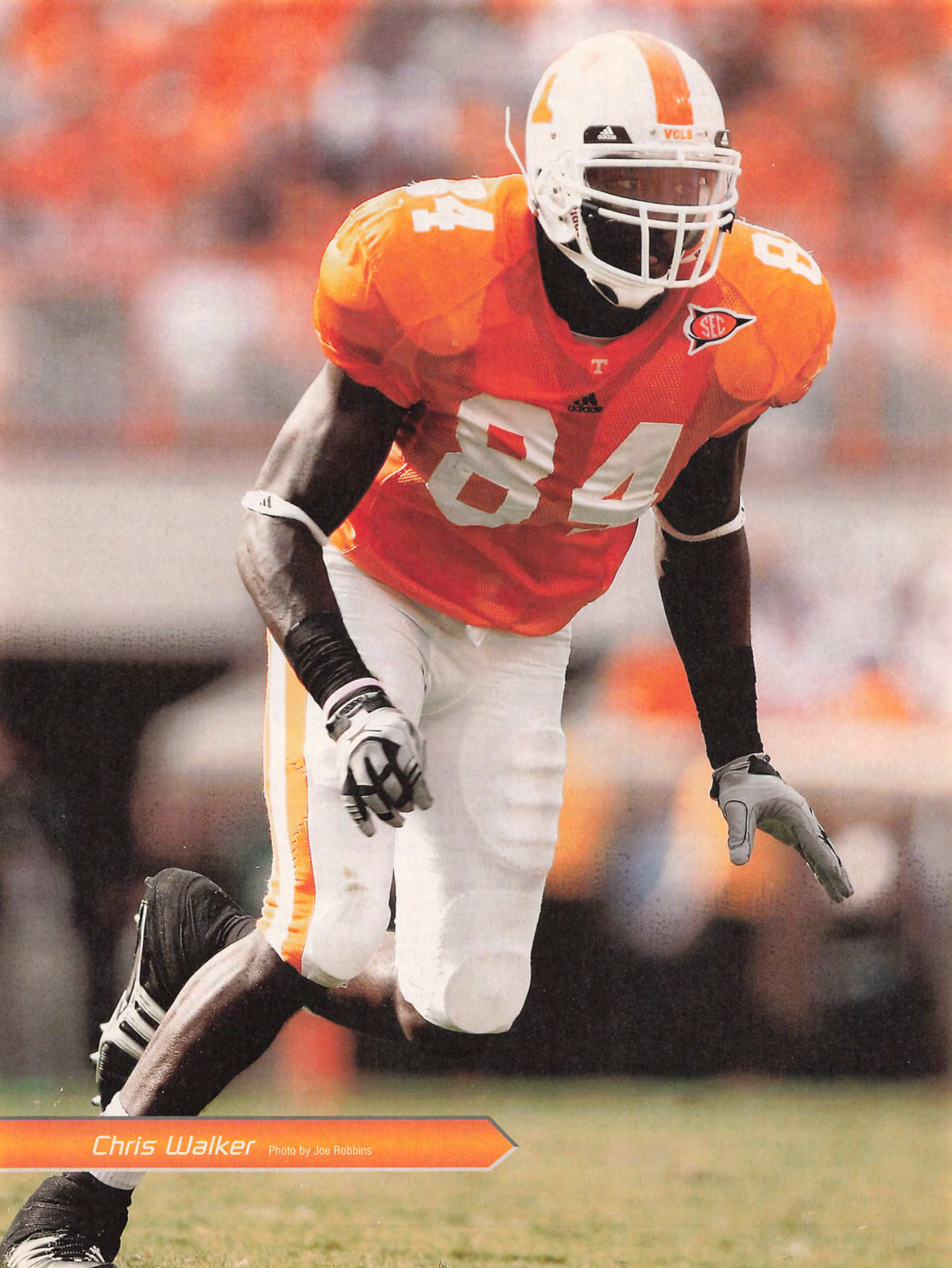
Tennessee's offense went from pitiful (17.3 points per game in 2008) to more productive (29.3 points in 2009) and the total offense increased by 115 yards per game.

On paper, the Vols likely will be more like 2008 than 2009. UT is weak up front, losing all five starters. Combined returning starts: three.

"It's a new line," Dooley said, comparing the group to newborn babes.

The projected starters on the offensive line are sophomore Dallas Thomas and true freshman Ja'Waun James at tackles, Jarrod Shaw and redshirt freshman JerQuari Schofield at guards, and either Cody Pope or Victor Thomas (a converted defensive tackle) at center. Dooley likes the abilities of Thomas, James and Schofield.

The Vols signed four offensive linemen and each could end up in the two-deep



Chris Walker Photo by Joe Robbins

Gerald Jones

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Matt Simms	Jr.	JC transfer; son of Phil; good arm; mobile.	Tyler Bray, Fr.
RB	Tauren Poole	Jr.	Quick; runs with good vision; makes big plays.	David Oku, So.
FB	Kevin Cooper*	Sr.	Good blocker and can catch out of backfield.	Channing Fugate, Fr.
WR	Gerald Jones*	Sr.	Most experienced WR; has 87 career catches.	Marsalis Teague, So.
WR	Denarius Moore*	Sr.	Great athlete who led team with seven TD catches.	Zach Rogers, So.
TE	Luke Stocker*	Sr.	29 catches last year; big target; pro potential.	Ben Bartholomew, Jr.
LT	Dallas Thomas	So.	Has good feet, can pass protect and run block.	James Stone, Fr.
LG	JerQuari Schofield	Fr.	Biggest man on OL; strong at run blocking.	Kevin Revis, Fr.
C	Cody Pope	Jr.	Has played each OL spot; found home at center.	Victor Thomas, Sr.
RG	Jarrold Shaw	Sr.	Made 3 starts last year, but benched for freshman.	Carson Anderson, So.
RT	Ja'Wawn James	Fr.	Mid-term enrollee won job early in spring camp.	Chase Phillips, Fr.
K	Daniel Lincoln*	Sr.	Hit 21 of 29 FGs in '07 ... but 20 of 34 since then.	Chip Rhome, Jr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Chris Walker*	Sr.	Six sacks last year; quick first step; back a concern.	Gerald Williams, Sr.
DT	Montori Hughes	So.	Great talent with raw ability; has All-SEC potential.	Rae Sykes, Jr.
DT	Marlon Walls	So.	Small for DT; very quick; 3 sacks in spring game.	Chase Nelson Sr.
DE	Ben Martin*	Sr.	11 starts in '09; good pass rusher; missed spring.	Willie Bohannon, So.
LB	LaMarcus Thompson*	Sr.	Has 11 starts, most among LBs; made 35 tackles.	Greg King, So.
LB	Nick Reveiz *	Sr.	Team captain; plays with passion, instincts; strong.	Austin Johnson, Jr.
LB	Savion Frazier	Sr.	Missed spring (ACL); had 38 tackles in 8 games.	Herman Lathers, So.
CB	Art Evans*	Jr.	Earned starting job last season and had 39 tackles.	Nyshier Oliver, Fr.
CB	Eric Gordon	Fr.	Hard hitter with quick feet; redshirted last season.	Anthony Anderson, Jr.
FS	Janzen Jackson*	So.	Made nine starts as freshman; All-America ability.	Prentiss Waggoner, So.
SS	Darren Myles Jr.	So.	Won job with solid spring. Dad played at Purdue.	Rod Wilks, So.
P	Chad Cunningham*	Sr.	Averaged 42.1 yards per punt. Dad played at UT.	David Harrington, Jr.

*Returning Starter

this fall.

The quarterback position is a question mark. Matt Simms, Phil's son, threw three interceptions in the spring game and was 8-for-25 in the preceding scrimmage. Simms has a strong arm and is mobile, but his accuracy and decision-making weren't good. Dooley had hoped Simms would step up after Stephens' departure. Simms didn't.

Bray, a mid-term enrollee, is 6-6, 195 pounds, but has a cannon for an arm and outplayed Simms in the spring game. Dooley also liked Bray's presence and poise.

"Wasn't nervous, nothing jittery, and performed the way he'd been performing all spring," Dooley said. "I think that says a lot about him."

Simms came out of the spring No. 1, but he's in for a battle this fall.

The running back position took a hit with Montario Hardesty (1,345 yards) completing his career and Bryce Brown,

the No. 1 prospect in the 2010 recruiting class, transferring. But Tauren Poole, always productive in scrimmages, emerged as a solid back, with David Oku also proving capable. Poole can be a weapon out of the backfield.

Receiver is the strongest position on offense. Senior Gerald Jones has 87 career receptions, including 46 in 2009. He can be used in the Wildcat package or to return punts. Denarius Moore led the team with seven touchdown catches last season. He had 39 receptions in the last 10 games.

"They are good, SEC-quality receivers with the ability to make big plays," Dooley said.

Freshmen wideouts Da'Rick Rogers, Matt Milton and Justin Hunter could pay immediate dividends.

Tight end Luke Stocker (29 catches) has pro potential.

Jim Chaney returns as offensive coordinator, but this time, he'll be calling

the plays. At Purdue, he threw a lot with Drew Brees and Kyle Orton. His run-pass ratio might be tied to what his inexperienced offensive line can do and how his quarterbacks perform.

DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator Justin Wilcox has the unenviable task of replacing defensive guru Monte Kiffin. Truth is, the Vols' defense was better statistically in 2008 (before Kiffin) than '09 in terms of points per game, total defense and run defense.

Wilcox, who helped Boise State lead the Western Athletic Conference in defense for three consecutive years, will stay with the 4-3 but might run less Tampa Two. He will use more movement up front to counter a lack of size along the front four and at linebacker.

Tennessee lost four of its top five defenders — including All-American safety Eric Berry and defensive tackle

**Da'Rick Rogers**

There may not be a prospect in the country that has more upside or potential than Rogers. He has a line-backer's physique with wide receiver hands and the speed and leaping ability of a cornerback. He truly is the complete package at wide receiver and may be a contributor immediately.

**Corey Miller**

Coming from national power Duncan (S.C.) Byrnes High School, Miller was one of the top defensive lineman in the country. He has a long, lean frame and terrific pass-rushing ability. His strength is pressuring the edge with his speed and athleticism. Though he needs to add some weight, Miller should be an impact player in the SEC. As an early enrollee, he is already well on his way.

**Ja'Wuan James**

James was likely the most important recruit of new coach Derek Dooley's first class. James is one of the best offensive tackles in the country, and that is a position of incredible need for the Volunteers. While you rarely recruit an offensive lineman with the expectation of him playing as a freshman, that is exactly what may happen with James. He is a talented, physically mature and polished lineman.

2011 NEEDS

With the transfer of Bryce Brown, Tennessee will look to add a big-time running back prospect. Defensive backs will also be a priority as graduation and the NFL has hurt depth there. More pressing though is the need to add bodies and depth at the offensive line and defensive tackle positions. The Vols desperately need depth at the line of scrimmage.

Commitments	26
Average Stars	3.38
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	1
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	12
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	9
★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆	4
Total Stars	88
National Rank: 9	SEC: 5

**Marcques Dixon**

Due to academic issues, Dixon had a slow recruitment. However, as a pure athlete there are few prospects that have his ability. As a senior, Dixon accounted for eight touchdowns on kickoff returns, punt returns and interception returns.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Tyler Bray	QB	6-6	187	★★★★★	Kingsburg, CA	Kingsburg
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 21 prospect in California...Rated as the nation's No. 7 pro-style quarterback...Threw for 3,321 yards and 41 touchdowns as a senior...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
John Brown	DT	6-2	285	★★★★★	Booneville, MS	Northeast Mississippi C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 33 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Had 80 tackles and 3.5 sacks in 2009...Began his career at Florida.						
Dave Clark	DB	6-2	190	★★★★★	Independence, KS	Independence C.C.
Rated as the nation's No. 39 junior college prospect by Rivals.com...Had 50 tackles, two interceptions and seven pass breakups in 2008...Missed 2009 season due to injury.						
Greg Clark	DT	6-4	295	★★★	Warner Robbins, GA	Northside School
Late addition to the Tennessee class...Had 34 tackles and nine tackles for loss as a senior.						
Raiques Crump	LB	6-1	210	★★★	Adamsville, AL	Minor
Recorded 108 tackles, 28 tackles for loss and eight sacks as a senior...Had 82 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and nine sacks as a junior.						
Marcques Dixon	ATH	5-10	182	★★★	Decatur, GA	Southwest Dekalb
Rated as the No. 57 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 63 athlete...Participated in DeKalb County All-Star Bowl...Had 40 tackles and two interceptions as a senior.						
Channing Fugate	ATH	6-2	225	★★★	Jackson, KY	Breathitt County School
Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 75 athlete...Rushed for 1,332 yards and 17 touchdowns as a senior...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
Zach Fulton	OL	6-4	306	★★★★	Homewood, IL	Homewood Flossmoor
Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Illinois by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 14 offensive guard...Brother, Xavier Fulton, plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.						
Justin Hunter	WR	6-4	172	★★★★★	Virginia Beach, VA	Ocean Lakes
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Virginia...Rated as the nation's No. 8 wide receiver...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Caught 46 passes for 714 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior.						
Martaze Jackson	DE	6-2	202	★★★★	Demopolis, AL	Demopolis
Helped team to a 12-3 record and Alabama Class 5A state championship in 2009...Recorded 28 sacks over his junior and senior seasons.						
Ja'Wuan James	OL	6-6	293	★★★★★	Suwanee, GA	North Gwinnett
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 8 offensive tackle...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
Eddrick Lofton	DB	5-10	195	★★★★★	Irving, TX	Nimitz
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 25 prospect in Texas...Rated as the nation's No. 14 safety...Had 128 tackles, four interceptions and 10 pass breakups as a senior.						
Ted Meline	WR	6-2	171	★★★★★	Miami, FL	North
Rated as the No. 40 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 41 wide receiver...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Corey Miller	DE	6-4	227	★★★★★	Duncan, SC	Byrnes
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 4 prospect in South Carolina...Rated as the nation's No. 5 weakside defensive end...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had 146 tackles and 18 sacks as a senior...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
Matt Milton	WR	6-6	192	★★★★★	Mascoutah, IL	Mascoutah
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 3 prospect in Illinois...Rated as the nation's No. 18 wide receiver...Rushed for 1,309 yards and 20 touchdowns while catching 14 passes for 232 yards as a senior...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
Nash Nance	QB	6-3	200	★★★	Calhoun, GA	Calhoun
Threw for 3,017 yards and 29 touchdowns as a senior...Helped lead team to 14-1 record and berth in the 2009 Class AA state championship game.						
Rajion Neal	RB	5-11	214	★★★★★	Tyrone, GA	Sandy Creek
Rivals250 selection...Rated as the No. 11 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 9 running back...Helped lead team to Class AAAA state championship in 2009.						
Marques Pair	OL	6-6	255	★★★★	Sumter, SC	Sumter
Rated as the No. 16 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 49 offensive tackle...Played center on the basketball team...Participated in South Carolina North-South All-Star Game.						
Michael Palardy	K	6-0	170	★★★★	FL Lauderdale, FL	St. Thomas Aquinas
Rated as the nation's No. 2 kicker by Rivals.com...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Connected on seven field goals and averaged 47 yards per punt in 2009.						
John Propst	LB	6-2	215	★★★★	Hoover, AL	Hoover
Rated as the No. 35 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 25 inside linebacker...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Finished career with 490 tackles.						
Mychal Rivera	TE	6-4	230	★★★★	Santa Clarita, CA	College of the Canyons
Caught 35 passes for 330 yards and three touchdowns in 2009...Originally signed with Oregon out of high school.						
Da'Rick Rogers	WR	6-3	206	★★★★★	Calhoun, GA	Calhoun
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Georgia...Rated as the nation's No. 2 wide receiver...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Caught 84 passes for 1,641 yards and 22 touchdowns as a senior.						
Dontavis Sapp	DB	6-3	205	★★★	Valdosta, GA	Valdosta
Had 56 tackles and two interceptions as a senior...Chose Tennessee over East Carolina.						
Matt Simms	QB	6-3	215	★★★★	Torrance, CA	El Camino C.C.
Threw for 2,204 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2009...Began career at Louisville...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
Jacques Smith	DE	6-3	225	★★★★★	Ooltewah, TN	Ooltewah
Rivals100 selection...Rated as the No. 1 prospect in Tennessee...Rated as the nation's No. 6 weakside defensive end...Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Enrolled at Tennessee in January.						
James Stone	OL	6-5	297	★★★★★	Nashville, TN	Maplewood
Rated as the No. 4 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 7 offensive guard...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
89	Daniel Adderley	TE	6-6	215	Jr.	Greer, SC	26	Daniel Lincoln	PK	6-0	210	Sr.	Ocala, FL
36	Anthony Anderson	DB	6-0	185	Jr.	Knoxville	85	T.J. Marrs	LS	5-10	221	Jr.	Bluefield, VA
60	Carson Anderson	C	6-2	272	So.	Florence, AL	99	Ben Martin	DE	6-3	251	Sr.	Cincinnati, OH
20	LaMarcus Armstead	LB	5-9	212	So.	Nashville	5	Ted Meline	WR	6-2	172	Fr.	Miami, FL
47	Jerod Askew	LB	5-11	236	Fr.	Chesapeake, VA	94	Corey Miller	DL	6-3	243	Fr.	Wellford, SC
65	Joseph Ayres	DE	6-3	243	Fr.	Knoxville	80	Matt Milton	WR	6-5	207	Fr.	Mascoutah, IL
39	Ben Bartholomew	TE	6-1	245	Jr.	Nashville	37	Nigel Mitchell-Thornton	LB	6-0	225	So.	Stone Mountain, GA
86	Willie Bohannon	DE	6-3	230	So.	Mobile, AL	6	Denarius Moore	WR	6-1	190	Sr.	Tatum, TX
27	Nick Brannum	DB	5-10	178	Fr.	Knoxville	3	Darren Myles, Jr.	DB	6-1	186	So.	Atlanta, GA
8	Tyler Bray	QB	6-6	195	Fr.	Kingsburg, CA	97	Chase Nelson	DT	6-3	285	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
11	Bryce Brown	RB	6-0	220	So.	Wichita, KS	35	Robert Nelson	LB	5-11	198	Fr.	Stone Mountain, GA
85	Todd Campbell	WR	6-0	188	Jr.	Nashville	27	David Oku	TB	5-10	185	So.	Midwest City, OK
56	J.R. Carr	DS	5-10	215	Fr.	Lomita, CA	12	Nyshier Oliver	DB	5-11	183	Fr.	Jersey City, NJ
40	Chris Cates	QB	6-0	182	So.	Knoxville	73	Chase Phillips	OL	6-3	310	Fr.	Knoxville
45	Kevin Cooper	FB	6-0	254	Sr.	Chattanooga	28	Tauren Poole	TB	5-11	211	Jr.	Toccoa, GA
13	Geoff Courtney	WR/H	6-1	176	Sr.	Knoxville	77	Cody Pope	OG	6-6	290	Jr.	Julian, CA
96	Chad Cunningham	P/PK	6-2	205	Sr.	Dawsonville, GA	29	Stephaun Raines	DB	5-10	184	Jr.	Dalton, GA
10	Josh Davis	P	5-10	190	Jr.	Dayton	56	Nick Reveiz	LB	5-10	224	Sr.	Farragut
78	Aaron Douglas	OT	6-6	287	So.	Maryville	30	Shane Reveiz	LB	5-9	222	Jr.	Farragut
41	Sam Edgmon	FB	5-11	227	Jr.	Pulaski	63	Kevin Revis	OL	6-2	279	Fr.	Evansville
12	Chris Eggert	WR	5-10	193	Jr.	Knoxville	47	Chip Rhome	P	6-3	175	Jr.	Christiana
24	Cory Eichholtz	DB	5-8	182	Jr.	Knoxville	83	Zach Rogers	WR	6-0	174	So.	Nashville
25	Art Evans	DB	6-0	185	Jr.	Lakeland, FL	75	JerQuari Schofield	OL	6-6	312	Fr.	Aiken, SC
38	C.J. Fleming	DB	5-10	173	Jr.	Richmond, VA	74	Jarrod Shaw	OG	6-4	322	Sr.	Lafayette, LA
90	Steven Fowlkes	DE	6-5	240	So.	College Park, GA	7	Mandela Shaw	DB	6-0	198	Jr.	Memphis
43	Savion Frazier	LB	6-0	208	Sr.	Woodbridge, VA	2	Matt Simms	QB	6-3	209	Jr.	Franklin Lakes, NJ
15	Mike Fromke	QB	6-2	196	Fr.	Knoxville	55	Jacques Smith	DL	6-2	243	Fr.	Doltewah
46	Channing Fugate	FB	6-2	229	Fr.	Jackson, KY	17	Nick Stephens	QB	6-4	231	Sr.	Flower Mound, TX
24	Eric Gordon	DB	5-10	186	Fr.	Nashville	88	Luke Stocker	TE	6-6	253	Sr.	Berea, KY
59	Nick Guess	DS	6-2	202	Jr.	Knoxville	53	Jake Storey	LB	5-10	219	Jr.	Titusville, FL
22	David Harrington	P	6-3	174	Jr.	Westminster, CA	98	Rae Sykes	DE	6-4	264	Jr.	Alcoa
76	Daniel Hood	OL	6-4	259	Fr.	Knoxville	10	Marsalis Teague	WR	5-10	178	So.	Paris
93	Montori Hughes	DT	6-4	317	So.	Murfreesboro	71	Dallas Thomas	OT	6-5	284	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
15	Janzen Jackson	DB	6-0	181	So.	Lake Charles, LA	44	Sam Thomas	P	6-5	189	Fr.	Memphis
21	Nick Jackson	DB	5-11	199	So.	Memphis	52	Victor Thomas	DT	6-3	282	Sr.	Olive Branch, MS
70	Ja'Wuan James	OL	6-7	320	Fr.	Swansea, GA	42	LaMarcus Thompson	LB	6-1	228	Sr.	Lithonia, GA
95	Arthur Jeffery	DL	6-3	288	Fr.	Sarasota, FL	9	Daryl Vereen	LB	5-11	218	Jr.	Charlotte, NC
39	Grant Jessen	LB	5-11	223	So.	Cordova	23	Prentiss Waggoner	DB	6-2	181	So.	Clinton, LA
40	Austin Johnson	LB	6-2	231	Jr.	Hickory, NC	84	Chris Walker	DE	6-3	241	Sr.	Memphis
4	Gerald Jones	WR	6-0	190	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK	58	Marlon Walls	DT	6-3	289	So.	Olive Branch, MS
42	Charles Karlosky	DL	6-2	218	Sr.	Cookeville	86	Matt Wegzyn	TE	6-2	234	So.	Northville, MI
48	Greg King	LB	6-1	222	So.	Memphis	22	Rod Wilks	DB	6-0	217	So.	Smyrna
19	Nick Lamaison	QB	6-1	212	So.	Covina, CA	57	Gerald Williams	DE	6-3	245	Sr.	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
34	Herman Lathers	LB	6-0	217	So.	Baton Rouge, LA	33	Toney Williams	RB	6-1	212	Fr.	Alpharetta, GA
90	Ben Lehnig	TE	6-1	232	Jr.	Nashville	26	Tyler Wills	DB	5-11	174	Fr.	Russellville
67	Caleb Leonard	OL	6-3	272	Fr.	Knoxville	18	Tyler Wolf	LB	5-11	202	Sr.	Cookeville

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Crompton	13	136.02	224	384	13	58.3	2800	27	51	215.4
N. Stephens	3	170.98	9	13	1	69.2	142	1	33	47.3

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
G. Jones	12	46	680	14.8	4	51	56.7
D. Moore	13	40	540	13.5	7	40	41.5
L. Stocker	13	29	389	13.4	5	40	29.9

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
M. Hardesty	13	282	1413	68	1345	4.8	13	43	103.5
B. Brown	12	101	476	16	460	4.6	3	37	38.3
D. Oku	13	23	99	5	94	4.1	2	16	7.2

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: R. McCoy 119, E. Berry 87, D. Williams 70
 Tackles for loss: D. Williams 9, C. Walker 8.5, two tied with seven
 Sacks: C. Walker 6, B. Martin 3.5, two tied with 2.5
 Interceptions: E. Berry 2, C. Walker 2, W. Brown 2

Offensive tackle **Dallas Thomas** was named the surprise offensive player during the spring. Middle linebacker **Austin Johnson**, a converted fullback, was named the surprise defensive player.

Wide receiver **Gerald Jones**, cornerback **Eric Gordon** and freshman defensive end **Jacques Smith** were cited for consistently being the most physically tough. Fourth Quarter awards for players who compete with intangible values went to running back **Tauren Poole**, tight end **Luke Stocker**, outside linebacker **LaMarcus Thompson** and free safety **Darren Myles Jr.**

Players who did best during the offseason program were offensive lineman **Cody Pope** and defensive end **Willie Bohannon**.

• Myles, who earned a starting job in the spring, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, public intoxication and resisting arrest less than 10 hours after UT's spring game.

• Coach **Derek Dooley** didn't seem bothered that running back **Bryce Brown** (460 yards), offensive tackle **Aaron Douglas** (Freshman All-American) and quarterback **Nick Stephens** quit the team. Dooley said he's not in the business of recruiting current players.

Due to his father's influence, Brown sought a transfer to Kansas State to play with his brother. Douglas wanted out of the shadows of playing at the same school as his dad, who was an NFL player. Stephens, who would have been a fifth-year senior this fall, was demoted to third team after a poor scrimmage.

• Walk-on kicker **Chip Rhome**, a junior transfer from Austin Peay, hit all three field-goal attempts in the spring game. **Devin Mathis**, a walk-on who was given the job late last season, missed spring while taking a class in Connecticut.

• Five players were held out of the spring game due to injuries: LB **Nick Reveiz** (knee), TE **Luke Stocker** (shoulder), DE **Ben Martin** (ankle), LB **Savion Frazier** (knee) and DB **Art Evans** (shoulder).

• UT had only nine scholarship offensive linemen during the spring. Ten offensive linemen have either de-committed, quit or been dismissed since December 2008. The Vols signed four offensive linemen, one of whom participated in spring ball.

• UT drew more than 35,000 for its spring game, third most ever. It had more than 50,000 last year and 73,000 in 1987.

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• On Tennessee last season under Lane Kiffin: "When you look at the fact they had six players drafted — four on offense — they under-achieved on offense. They had one of the best running backs in the league (Montario Hardesty), they had a quarterback (Jonathan Crompton) rated one of the top two or three in the draft by some scouts, and most of their yards and points came against Western Kentucky, Memphis and Ohio. When you have 11 players in camp (five were free agents) you had some talent."

• On the state of the program: "For a program that's going down because they couldn't recruit, they had six players drafted. The thing about Tennessee is they have very poor leadership in the athletic department. Until they get a president, I think they'll continue to have poor leadership."

• On losing tailback Montario Hardesty: "Montario Hardesty was such a huge factor for them. He probably won some games by himself."

Denarius Moore

Dan Williams — but returns some quality players.

Defensive end Chris Walker is an All-SEC candidate, safety Janzen Jackson made the All-SEC Freshman team and middle linebacker Nick Reveiz, coming off a torn ACL, is a productive player and great leader. Defensive tackle Montori Hughes has more talent than Williams.

"Montori had an excellent spring," Dooley said. "We need him to be a big presence inside."

Marlon Walls, who moved from end to tackle last year, had three sacks in the spring game. He's bulked up to 289 and moves well.

"If you're not big," Dooley said, "you better be quick as heck."

Ben Martin and Gerald Williams will fight for one end spot opposite Walker, who has nine sacks in 12 career starts. Hughes and Walls are solid. Reveiz heads a linebacker corps that has Savion Frazier, Herman Lathers, Greg King, LaMarcus Thompson and converted fullback Austin Johnson.

"I think we have a chance to be one of the best units in the SEC," Reveiz said.

Jackson, Darren Myles and Prentiss Waggner make the safety spots secure. At cornerback, Art Evans and Eric Gordon are battling Naz Oliver and Anthony Anderson.

No less expert than Berry thinks Jackson, who has had off-field issues, has All-America potential at safety.

"Janzen is good at everything," said Dooley. "I've seen nothing but a phenomenal attitude, a phenomenal work ethic. He's been a real treat to coach."

Dooley said he's worried about his depth at defensive tackle. That's why he moved two ends — 240-pound Steven Fowlkes and 264-pound Rae Sykes — inside. He's also worried about a lack of size.

"We've only got three players on defense that weigh over 280 pounds," Dooley said.

"That's frightening. We're going to go on an eating spree in the offseason. A big bucket of fried chicken sometimes is good when you're trying to stop the Power O and you're playing the three-technique. We need some mass in the middle of the defense."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Chad Cunningham averaged 42.1 yards per punt, with 12 going at least 50 yards. But he had one blocked and the team net was only 34.3.

Kicker Daniel Lincoln lost his job late

The BEST & The BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

LB Nick Reveiz

The senior from Knoxville is only 5-10 but is thick, strong, driven and plays with great passion and instincts. ... Had 27 tackles (4.5 behind the line) before tearing ACL in fourth game on non-contact play. ... Returned for second half of spring due to extensive rehab. ... First former walk-on to be elected team captain since 1992. ... Was special teams demon before earning starting job as a junior. ... Dad was All-American kicker at UT and an NFL All-Pro. ... Three-time Academic All-SEC.



EMERGING STAR

FS Janzen Jackson

Jackson became a starter in the second game of his true freshman season. ... A hard hitter despite weighing just 181, Jackson recorded 37 tackles in 10 games and made one interception. ... Has been compared to former UT All-American safety Eric Berry. ... Berry said Jackson could be a first-round draft choice. ... Has cover skills to complement tackling. ... Dynamic with the ball, he'll likely be used in return game. ... Suspended one game after arrest for armed robbery (charges later dropped). Steered clear of trouble in the spring.



TOP NEWCOMER

QB Matt Simms

Won the job by default in the spring when senior Nick Stephens quit. Simms has a strong arm, is bright and mobile — which could be key behind a revamped line. ... Simms played at Louisville and a junior college before signing with Tennessee. He said in the past he's suffered from a lack of confidence. ... Struggled with accuracy and decision-making at times as he learned the system and adjusted to receivers. ... Son of former NFL star Phil Simms and brother of current NFL quarterback Chris Simms.



2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	32.5	36
Rushing	139.9	73
Passing	262.5	35
Total	401.5	54

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	27.3	61
Rushing	164.6	69
Passing	238.6	73
Total	403.3	70

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+7	+0.5	27

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	17.3	110
Rushing	122.9	88
Passing	145.8	107
Total	268.8	115

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	16.8	10
Rushing	103.1	12
Passing	160.4	4
Total	263.5	3

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+2	+0.17	48

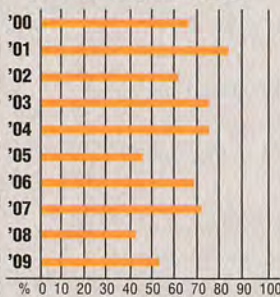
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.3	43
Rushing	157.2	54
Passing	226.3	46
Total	383.5	60

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.2	38
Rushing	149.5	65
Passing	169.2	12
Total	318.8	22

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+3	+0.23	47

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS

W	WESTERN KENTUCKY	63-7
L	UCLA	15-19
L	at Florida	13-23
W	OHIO	34-23
L	AUBURN	22-26
W	GEORGIA	45-19
L	at Alabama	10-12
W	SOUTH CAROLINA	31-13
W	MEMPHIS	56-28
L	at Ole Miss	17-42
W	VANDERBILT	31-16
W	at Kentucky	30-24
L	Chick-fil-A Bowl vs. Virginia Tech	14-37

Player Profile

Photo by Joe Robbins/Getty Images



Nick Reveiz

Reveiz Stands Tall Again After Injury

Nick Reveiz crumpled to the ground without being hit. He writhed in pain near the Tennessee sideline. It was Game 4, against Ohio. And the Vols' starting middle linebacker had torn an ACL. The former walk-on from Knoxville was out for the season.

All the hard work, all the dreams, all the motivation to prove doubters wrong had gone up in smoke. One awkward cut, one devastating injury.

The next game, a confused defense got torched by Auburn's misdirection spread offense, allowing 459 total yards, an indi-

cation of how much UT missed Reveiz.

"The difference in the game, no doubt in my mind," said UT linebackers coach Lance Thompson.

"To me he's as valuable to the defense as a quarterback is to the offense. He understands schemes and adjustments, and gets everybody where they need to be, and he does his job at a high level."

Reveiz vowed he would return for spring practice. Two weeks in, he was back on the field, doing what he does best — hitting people.

Thompson wasn't surprised.

"He told me he'd come back bigger, faster, stronger than ever," Thompson said.

But his contact was limited, leaving him "frustrated." He was also trying to learn a different scheme. It's gone from a formation defense to field and boundary.

"I picked it up well," Reveiz said.

Last season, the 5-10, 224-pound Reveiz had 27 tackles in less than four games. He called defensive signals, plugged gaps and inspired teammates.

When former defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin first spotted Reveiz, he thought he was a kicker, like his dad Fuad.

"I never judge them by what they look like," Thompson said. "I judge them by how they play and how they handle their business. Nick is one of those guys you'd never bet against. He's a special cat."

"He's strong (480 bench press). He's got great vision, great instincts. He's a hard guy to block and he reacts well."

Thompson has seen smaller linebackers succeed in the NFL, like Zach Thomas, Jessie Tuggle and Sam Mills. Thompson thinks Reveiz has pro potential.

"I've seen guys play in the league that can't do some things he can do," Thompson said.

"He has the intangibles and physical ability to play in the NFL. If you're an NFL owner and you're looking for 53 guys to play at a high-class level and represent your team well, you want Nick. He can play the game. The kid will deliver."

last season after having two field-goal attempts blocked in a loss to Alabama. He suffered through a 10-for-16 season. Signee Michael Palardy, a high school All-American, could win the job.

At the end of spring, Dooley said he felt good about his punter and kicker but was looking for a kickoff man.

David Oku averaged 26.2 yards on kick returns, setting school records for number of returns and return yardage. The Vols lost both punt returners. Gerald Jones led the team with 10.0 yards per runback in 2008. Janzen Jackson will also get a shot.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Tennessee's schedule is brutal, especially for a rebuilding team. The Vols face Oregon, Florida, LSU, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina — all before November. LSU, Georgia and South Carolina are on the road. Alabama, Florida and LSU have won the last four national championships.

UT doesn't play Arkansas, Auburn or Mississippi State from the West.

Oregon is the defending Pac-10 champion, though its program is in upheaval. Alabama, Florida, LSU, Georgia and South Carolina might be the five most talented teams in the SEC.

The schedule doesn't ease up until November, when the Vols face Memphis, Ole Miss, Vanderbilt and Kentucky. UT is 21-1 all-time against Memphis, and 26-1 against Vanderbilt since 1982. Kentucky hasn't beaten the Vols since 1984, but UT has needed overtime to win two of the last three.

— Jimmy Hyams

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	TENNESSEE-MARTIN	5-6
Sept. 11	OREGON	10-3
Sept. 18	FLORIDA	13-1
Sept. 25	UAB	5-7
Oct. 2	at LSU	9-4
Oct. 9	at Georgia	8-5
Oct. 23	ALABAMA	14-0
Oct. 30	at South Carolina	7-6
Nov. 6	at Memphis	2-10
Nov. 13	OLE MISS	9-4
Nov. 20	at Vanderbilt	2-10
Nov. 27	KENTUCKY	7-6

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♦ **Brand new**, beautiful waterfront, 3 bedroom, 3 bath, immaculately furnished and available for both long and short term rentals in Panama City Beach, Florida.

♦ **A spacious, 1900 square foot unit**, excluding balcony can sleep 8-10 which will be ideal for large or multi-families on vacation. An extremely open floor plan with floor to ceiling windows for incredible bay views. Master has king sized bed and adjacent jacuzzi bath. Additional sleeping arrangements include 2 queen beds in second bedroom and 1 queen bed in third bedroom, both with private baths. Sofa in living area is a sleeper to accommodate extra guests.

♦ **Fabulous wraparound balcony**, comfortably furnished for indoor/outdoor living and with grill, is perfect for entertaining and provides 360 degree views of beautiful St Andrews bay and marina. This adjoining marina has slips available for lease.

♦ **Condo features include fireplace**, fully equipped kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, 3 flat screen HDTV LCD televisions and DVD player and high speed internet access. Complete security and available conference room as well as an onsite state of the art fitness room and expansive pool area with hot tub. Conveniently located within 10 minutes or less of beautiful white sand beaches, fishing, boating, world-class golf, shopping, restaurants and all of the amusements that have made this area famous.

**VANDERBILT**

COMMODORES

*For more coverage of the Commodores, visit vanderbilt.rivals.com***OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Jimmy Kiser**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Jamie Bryant**STADIUM:** Vanderbilt Stadium: 39,790

AT A GLANCE

2009

2-10, 0-8 SEC (6th, East)

COACH

Bobby Johnson — At Vanderbilt: 29-66,
8 years; overall: 89-102, 16 years

RETURNING STARTERS

12; 7 offense, 4 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Larry Smith, RB Warren Norman,
RB Zac Stacy, RT James Williams, LB Chris
Marve, CB Casey Hayward, CB Jamie
Graham, SS Sean Richardson

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The defense is aggressive and has more
playmakers than usual, which keeps oppos-
ing offenses off balance. RB/KR Warren
Norman provides big-play potential on
offense and special teams. All of the skill
positions on offense boast experience,
if not big numbers in recent seasons.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

A virtually new offensive line steps in for
a unit that struggled last season to protect
the quarterback and to produce in short-
yardage situations. The need for blitzes by
the defense leaves it vulnerable to big
plays. None of the returning wide receivers
has been consistently productive.

KEY LOSSES

CB Myron Lewis, LT Thomas Welch,
DT Greg Billinger, DE Steven Stone,
FS Ryan Hamilton

OVERVIEW

Following the heady days of 2008, the
Commodores have returned to fighting for
respect in the powerful SEC. There are
some quality pieces in place but not
enough that this team consistently can
overcome errors, injuries and infractions.
The best Vanderbilt can hope for is to keep
games close and to make plays at the end
when it counts, which is just what hap-
pened two years ago.

Road Back to Respectability Must Start with Offense

Six touchdowns. Most Southeastern Conference teams can — and sometimes do — score that many in a game.

For Vanderbilt, that was its meager total in its eight conference contests of 2009. Five came from the offense — only one score was longer than seven yards — and the other came from special teams.

The problem, for the most part, was confined to conference play. The Commodores topped 30 points three times against non-conference opponents. Predictably, the offense has received a lot of focus since November, with the obvious goal being to make it less ... well, offensive.

Coach Bobby Johnson did not fire anyone, but he changed roles among his coaching staff.

Jimmy Kiser was promoted from passing game co-coordinator/quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator. Kiser was, however, the one who called the plays in 2009.

Ted Cain, the offensive coordinator for the previous eight seasons, was relegated to coaching the tight ends (something he also did previously) and special teams. Running backs coach Deshaun Kitchens assumed the role of running game coordinator, and wide receivers coach Charlie Fisher was left as the lone passing game coordinator.

"We still have a very collaborative staff," Johnson said. "Everybody will have input into what we do. It's just that some of the specific responsibilities have changed."

Similarly, there have been no dramatic changes in scheme or personnel.

Other than a line decimated by graduation, the offensive depth chart coming out of spring practice looked a lot like the one that existed most of last fall, with players like Larry Smith at quarterback, Warren Norman and Zac Stacy atop the list of running backs,

and John Cole and Udom Umoh leading the wide receivers.

The difference could be this: There are some newcomers, led by junior college quarterback Jordan Rodgers and four freshmen wide receivers, who can be pressed into service if the offense struggles early.

Also, while Vanderbilt has not abandoned the no-huddle approach it adopted in 2009, it has decided to be more flexible and to huddle regularly, as warranted.

"It was lack of concentration — that's the main thing," Smith said. "Just the little things like a bad throw, a dropped pass or a missed block — the little things — that killed us last year. ... That's kind of frustrating."

"So now we're just focusing on the little things."

And they're hoping to put up big numbers ... or at least bigger numbers than last year.

OFFENSE

Sophomore running back Warren Norman, the 2009 SEC Freshman of the Year, is the foundation amid the rubble of last season's struggles.

At 5-10, 192 pounds, he's not overpowering, but he is decisive once he gets the ball in his hands. He makes quick cuts and maintains his balance well because he runs with his feet close to the ground.

Behind him is Zac Stacy, another small sophomore (5-9, 204) who looks for contact more often and is equally capable of keeping the clock and the chains moving.

Wesley Tate, the younger brother of former Notre Dame All-American receiver Golden Tate, redshirted last year. He is ready to run this year.

The key will be for the trio to stay healthy, not just this season, but in the coming years. The recent trend has been



Chris Marve Photo by Michael Marti

Warren Norman

for Commodores' ball carriers to fade out rather than flourish as they get older. The latest example was last year's senior, Jared Hawkins, who rushed for just 130 yards because of a foot injury that plagued him throughout the season.

Junior quarterback Larry Smith returns from a hamstring injury — "It was real painful. It was partially torn," he said — that caused him to miss the final three-plus contests. Athleticism is not an issue with Smith, but accuracy is.

He too often missed open receivers in his first season as a starter or, at the very least, did not give them a chance to run once they caught the ball.

If he struggles again, coaches might turn to junior college transfer Jordan Rodgers, the younger brother of the Green Bay Packers' starter Aaron Rodgers.

There are huge questions at wide receiver and on the offensive line.

Senior center Joey Bailey, junior guard/

Scouting Report: Offense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Larry Smith*	Jr.	Has to be more accurate and decisive this year.	Jared Funk, Sr.
RB	Warren Norman*	So.	783 yards were second-most ever by a VU frosh.	Zac Stacy, So.
WR	Turner Wimberly	Sr.	Needs to produce early to hold off youngsters.	Brady Brown, Fr.
WR	Udom Umoh*	Jr.	Has the speed to be a deep threat.	Akeem Dunham, So.
WR	John Cole*	So.	Injuries, not ability, have been a problem.	Tray Herndon, Jr.
TE	Brandon Barden*	Jr.	Needs to be a more willing, effective blocker.	Austin Monahan, Jr.
LT	Ryan Seymour	So.	A converted D-lineman who needs seasoning.	Wesley Johnson, Fr.
LG	Jabo Burrow	So.	Another converted D-lineman in need of experience.	Chris Aaron, Sr.
C	Joey Bailey	Sr.	Played virtually every spot on the line.	Chris Aaron, Sr.
RG	Kyle Fischer*	Jr.	A fluid, athletic player who moves well.	Chris Aaron, Sr.
RT	James Williams*	Jr.	Showed promise early in '09 before a broken ankle.	Caleb Welchans, So.
K	Ryan Fowler*	So.	Tied school record with 16 FGs last season.	Richard Kent, So.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Tim Fugger	Jr.	An aggressive, hard hitter who played a lot in '09.	Johnell Thomas, So.
DT	Rob Lohr	So.	The bulkiest (6-4, 288) of VU's front four.	Adam Smotherman, Sr.*
DT	T.J. Greenstone	Jr.	The epitome of a high-motor guy.	Colt Nichter, So.
DE	Theron Kadri	Sr.	Top returner in terms of sacks (three).	Terrell Brannon, Sr.
LB	John Stokes	Sr.	Made eight tackles in each of final two games.	Archibald Barnes, So.
LB	Chris Marve*	Jr.	100-plus stops as freshman and sophomore.	Tristan Strong, So.
LB	Dexter Daniels	So.	Playing time increased late in 2009.	DeAndre Jones, So.
CB	Casey Hayward*	Jr.	Often will match up with opponent's top WR.	Trey Wilson, So.
CB	Jamie Graham	Jr.	Finally an opportunity to showcase himself.	Eric Samuels, So.
SS	Sean Richardson*	Jr.	A big-time hitter out of the secondary.	Al Owens, So.
FS	Jay Fullam	Fr.	Hand injury derailed a promising 2009 season.	Kenny Ladler, Fr.
P	Richard Kent	So.	Has shown a big leg on the practice field.	Ryan Fowler, So.

*Returning Starter

tackle Kyle Fischer and sophomore tackle Caleb Welchans have plenty of experience. The issue is how well (and quickly) this unit will fit together given that four starters and the top reserve from last season all graduated.

Junior James Williams, the starting right tackle, missed all of spring drills. Sophomore Ryan Seymour, the projected starter at left tackle, missed nearly all of spring drills with injuries.

One or more receivers from a group of sophomore John Cole, junior Udom Umoh, redshirt freshman Brady Brown or an incoming freshman must show that they can get open and catch the ball consistently. Cole is the best bet because of his speed, but he has yet to show he can stay healthy.

DEFENSE

Junior cornerback Casey Hayward follows in the footsteps of D.J. Moore and

Myron Lewis, NFL draft choices in each of the past two years.

At 6-0, 185 pounds, Hayward is built more like Moore but plays a physical game and tackles aggressively the way Lewis did. He also leads a deep defensive back group that includes three sophomores — Trey Wilson, Eric Samuels and Eddie Foster — who saw extensive playing time as true freshmen in 2009.

Junior cornerback Jamie Graham is the most athletic of the bunch and can be a big factor opposite Hayward. His athleticism has actually been a detriment at times. Coaches have moved him around the past two seasons — he's played cornerback, safety, wide receiver and running back — based on where they have injury issues. It seems he could flourish if he's left at one spot.

Junior Sean Richardson is a huge presence at the back of the defense. He can play either free or strong safety and often



Kyle Woestmann

Woestmann is a great representative of the rise in prestige at the Vanderbilt program. Despite offers from Clemson, Boston College, Georgia, Georgia Tech and numerous other national programs, Woestmann never wavered on an early commitment to the Commodores.



Jordan Rodgers

Vanderbilt has not been able to find a consistent presence at quarterback since the departure of Jay Cutler. Rodgers — who has good bloodlines in brother Aaron Rodgers of the Green Bay Packers — is hoping to provide some stability. He is a rare junior college transfer for the Commodores. He is very mature both physically and mentally.



Kenneth Ladler

Ladler is a big safety prospect with good athleticism and a taste for contact. It will be hard to keep him off of the field as a special teams contributor as a freshman. In fact, special teams is an area in which he took pride during his high school career. Ladler will also be a step ahead of the curve as a rare early enrollee for Vanderbilt.

2011 NEEDS

The tragic murder of four-star signee Rajaan Bennett makes running back a need once again for the Commodores in 2011. They will look to sign several offensive linemen, and likely will look to add one quarterback as well. Regardless of position, numbers will be tight for Vanderbilt in 2011 with an expectation of signing no more than 15 players.

Commitments	23
Average Stars	2.74
★★★★★	0
★★★★☆	0
★★★☆☆	17
★★☆☆☆	6
Total Stars	63
National Rank: 61	SEC: 12

THE SLEEPER



Jordan Matthews

Vanderbilt is in desperate need of a consistent and dangerous wide receiver threat. With speed, size and big-play ability, Matthews could fill that role after slipping through the cracks and landing in Vanderbilt's lap.

By Barton Simmons/Rivals.com

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Chris Boyd	WR	6-5	195	★★★★	Roswell, GA	Roswell
Caught 43 passes for 773 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior...Played in Georgia North-South All-Star Classic...Chose Vanderbilt over Georgia Tech.						
Andrew Bridges	DE	6-6	245	★★★★	Atlanta, GA	Westminster
Two-way starter at Westminster...Voted team's postseason MVP in 2009...Recorded 45 tackles and five sacks as a senior.						
Karl Butler	DB	6-2	185	★★★★	New Orleans, LA	Brother Martin
Rated as the No. 27 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 58 cornerback...Had 31 tackles, one interception and eight pass breakups as a senior.						
Steven Clarke	DB	5-9	180	★★★	Lauderdale Lakes, FL	Boyd Anderson
Team captain as a junior and senior...Recorded 87 tackles, two sacks, four interceptions and eight pass breakups as a senior...Participated in Dade vs. Broward All-Star Game.						
Chase Garnham	LB	6-2	210	★★★	Fairhope, AL	Fairhope School
Recorded 135 tackles, six sacks and one interception as a senior...Helped lead 2009 squad to an 11-1 record as team captain.						
Blake Gowder	ATH	6-2	215	★★★★	Blairsville, GA	Union County
Caught 72 passes for 1,237 yards and 14 touchdowns while rushing for 1,200 yards and 21 scores as a senior...Also is a standout in baseball and basketball.						
Andre Hal	DB	6-0	170	★★★★	Port Allen, LA	Port Allen
Rated as the No. 25 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 56 cornerback...Recorded 53 tackles and four interceptions as a senior...Chose Vanderbilt over Nebraska.						
James Kittredge	DE	6-4	250	★★★★	Ramsey, NJ	Don Bosco Prep
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in New Jersey by Rivals.com...Participated in Under Armour All-American Game...Had 47 tackles and four sacks as a senior.						
Jonathan Krause	WR	5-11	168	★★★★	Snellville, GA	South Gwinnett
Caught 44 passes for 718 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior...Ranks as school's all-time leader with 132 career receptions.						
Kenneth Ladler	DB	6-2	190	★★★★	Stone Mountain, GA	Stephenson
Rated as the No. 46 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 42 safety...Participated in DeKalb County East-West All-Star Game...Recorded 80 tackles and four interceptions as a senior...Enrolled at Vanderbilt in January.						
Fitz Lassing	LB	6-3	225	★★★	Nashville, TN	Montgomery Bell Academy
Rushed for 1,417 yards and had 212 receiving yards with 21 combined touchdowns...Recorded 92 tackles on defense and averaged 42 yards per punt as a senior...Also participated in basketball and track.						

Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Stars	Hometown	School
Jordan Matthews	WR	6-3	193	★★★★	Madison, AL	Madison Academy
Had 61 catches for 1,061 yards and 13 touchdowns and recorded 50 tackles and eight interceptions as a senior...Ended prep career with 181 catches for 3,218 yards and 42 touchdowns.						
Jared Morse	DT	6-3	260	★★★★	Oxford, AL	Oxford
Rated as the No. 29 prospect in Alabama by Rivals.com...Participated in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic...Had 88 tackles, 31 tackles for loss and seven sacks in 2009.						
Trent Pruitt	WR	5-10	175	★★★	Fitzgerald, GA	Fitzgerald High School
Rushed for 921 yards and 17 touchdowns and caught 49 passes for 835 yards and eight scores in 2009...Also a standout shortstop on baseball team.						
Grant Ramsay	OL	6-5	280	★★★★	Marietta, GA	Pope
Helped his 2009 team to a 6-4 record, the school's first winning season in nearly a decade...Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Classic.						
Jordan Rodgers	QB	6-2	210	★★★★	Oroville, CA	Butte C.C.
Threw for 2,219 yards and 19 touchdowns in 2009...Younger brother of Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers...Enrolled at Vanderbilt in January.						
Thomas Ryan	DE	6-4	240	★★★★	Marathon, FL	Marathon
Rated as the nation's No. 39 strongside defensive end by Rivals.com...Had 102 tackles and 10 sacks as a senior.						
Andre Simmons	DB	6-1	193	★★★★	Lorton, VA	South County
Rated as the No. 19 prospect in Virginia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 35 safety...Recorded 75 tackles, three interceptions and 11 pass breakups in 2009.						
Carey Spear	K	5-11	175	★★★	Highland Heights, OH	Mayfield
Connected on 13-of-21 field goal attempts as a senior, including a state-record tying 61-yarder...Averaged 39 yards per punt in 2009.						
Logan Stewart	OL	6-3	253	★★★★	Boiling Springs, SC	Boiling Springs
Two-year starter for Boiling Springs...Participated in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.						
Vince Taylor	DT	6-1	270	★★★★	Hattiesburg, MS	Oak Grove
Rated as the No. 13 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 59 defensive tackle...Had 117 tackles, 16 tackles for loss and seven sacks as a senior.						
Chase White	OL	6-5	260	★★★	Plano, TX	Plano West
Two-year starter and senior captain at Plano West...Chose Vanderbilt over Houston.						
Kyle Woestmann	DT	6-3	265	★★★★	Marietta, GA	Walton
Rated as the No. 36 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com...Rated as the nation's No. 49 defensive tackle...Participated in GACA North-South All-Star Game and Cobb County Senior Classic...Recorded 32 tackles and four sacks in 2009.						

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
63	Chris Aaron	OG	6-3	295	Sr.	Palos Verdes, CA	4	Kurt Lockhart	DB	6-2	198	So.	Ames, IA
55	Rob Ashabranner	OG	6-2	280	Jr.	Beaumont, TX	54	Taylor Lottley	DT	6-2	285	So.	Chamblee, GA
71	Joey Bailey	C/OG	6-4	295	Sr.	Trussville, AL	84	Rob Lohr	DT	6-4	288	So.	Phoenixville, PA
6	Brandon Barden	TE	6-5	250	Jr.	Lincolnton, GA	35	Reece Lovell	RB	6-0	220	So.	Old Hickory
15	Archibald Barnes	LB	6-4	228	So.	Tampa, FL	41	Javon Marshall	DB	5-10	182	Fr.	Huber Heights, OH
89	Terial Brannon	DE	6-3	245	Sr.	Spartanburg, SC	13	Chris Marve	LB	6-0	234	Jr.	Memphis
88	Brady Brown	WR	6-5	210	Fr.	Argyle, TX	92	Walker May	DE	6-5	230	Fr.	Birmingham, AL
50	Mylon Brown	OL	6-5	310	So.	Trilby, FL	99	Thad McHaney	DE	6-5	245	Fr.	Nashville
57	Jabo Burrow	OL	6-4	285	So.	Morris, AL	86	Austin Monahan	TE	6-6	255	Jr.	Charlotte, NC
89	Charlie Byrge	WR	6-3	195	So.	Brentwood	58	Colt Nichter	DT	6-2	288	So.	Park City, UT
70	Justin Cabbagestalk	OL	6-3	290	Fr.	Tampa, FL	5	Warren Norman	RB	5-10	192	So.	Stone Mountain, GA
15	Matt Casas	QB	6-1	200	Fr.	Saratoga, CA	37	Al Owens	S	6-2	218	So.	Springtown, TX
83	John Cole	WR	5-11	178	So.	Somerset, KY	53	Marc Panu	LB	6-2	245	Fr.	Mableton, GA
18	Dexter Daniels	LB	6-1	230	So.	Brantley, AL	20	Micah Powell	LB	6-0	215	So.	Tarpon Springs, FL
3	Akeem Dunham	WR	6-3	210	So.	Eustis, FL	95	Conrad Quiros	SN	6-1	225	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
72	Kyle Fischer	OG	6-6	310	Jr.	Columbia, SC	28	Kenard Reeves	RE	6-0	205	Sr.	Duluth, GA
26	Reggie Ford	DB	5-9	165	Fr.	Nashville	38	Sean Richardson	S	6-2	210	Jr.	Linden, AL
43	Eddie Foster	DB	5-10	170	So.	Colleyville, TX	11	Jordan Rodgers	QB	6-2	210	Jr.	Chico, GA
48	Ryan Fowler	PK	5-10	172	So.	Tailors, SC	49	Jameson Sackey	WR	6-1	210	So.	Smyrna, GA
51	Eric Frieman	PK	5-10	175	Fr.	Scarsdale, NY	22	Eric Samuels	DB	6-0	192	So.	Eustis, FL
42	Tim Fugger	DE	6-4	255	Jr.	Oak Brook, IL	62	Ryan Seymour	OT	6-4	300	So.	Kingsland, GA
33	Jay Fullam	S	6-1	200	Fr.	Chattanooga	10	Larry Smith	QB	6-2	220	Jr.	Prattville, AL
12	Jared Funk	QB	6-2	205	Sr.	Long Grove, IL	59	Adam Smotherman	DT	6-4	295	Sr.	Smyrna
44	Michael Garcia	LB	6-1	225	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL	35	Blake Southerland	LB	6-2	235	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA
69	David Giller	SN	6-1	230	Jr.	Swampscott, MA	2	Zac Stacy	RB	5-9	204	So.	Centerville, AL
17	Charlie Goro	QB	6-2	200	Fr.	Park Ridge, IL	49	John Stokes	LB/SN	6-5	235	Sr.	Memphis
25	Jamie Graham	DB	6-0	195	Jr.	Nashville	32	Tristan Strong	LB	6-1	230	So.	Loganville, GA
74	T.J. Greenstone	DT	6-3	285	Jr.	Lawrenceville, GA	24	Wesley Tate	RB	6-2	223	Fr.	Hendersonville
19	Casey Hayward	DB	6-0	185	Jr.	Elko, GA	98	Johnell Thomas	DE	6-1	250	So.	Orlando, FL
14	Tray Herndon	WR	5-10	182	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL	37	Elvio Tropeano	S	5-10	205	Jr.	Boston, MA
93	Josh Jelsky	DE	6-5	255	So.	Naperville, IL	23	Udom Umoh	WR	6-0	180	Jr.	Fort Valley, GA
16	Bobby Jewell	DB	6-0	195	So.	Brentwood	34	Ryan Van Rensburg	HB	6-1	235	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL
67	Wesley Johnson	OL	6-5	265	Fr.	Nashville	46	Duane Vaughn	S	6-1	200	So.	Goodlettsville
85	Mason Johnston	TE	6-4	240	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL	78	Caleb Welchans	OT	6-5	300	So.	Wildwood, MO
47	DeAndre Jones	LB	6-1	235	So.	Memphis	22	Walt Wepfer	DB	5-10	180	Fr.	Memphis
91	Theron Kadri	DE	6-4	255	Sr.	Brighton	77	James Williams	OT	6-6	312	Jr.	Smyrna
94	Richard Kent	P	6-2	195	So.	Marietta, GA	8	Trey Wilson	DB	5-11	185	So.	Shreveport, LA
27	Kenny Ladler	S	6-1	192	Fr.	Decatur, GA	81	Turner Wimberly	WR	6-1	200	Sr.	Austin, TX

PASSING

Name	GP	Effic	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yards	TD	Long	Avg/G
L. Smith	9	88.0	106	227	7	46.7	1126	4	54	125.1
M. Adams	7	94.0	64	125	3	51.2	630	2	47	90.0

RECEIVING

Name	GP	No.	Yards	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
J. Cole	11	36	382	10.6	1	21	34.7
B. Barden	12	29	357	12.3	1	43	29.8
U. Umoh	12	20	267	13.4	1	54	22.2

RUSHING

Name	GP	Att	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg	TD	Long	Avg/G
W. Norman	12	145	802	19	783	5.4	3	58	65.2
Z. Stacy	10	107	496	18	478	4.5	3	62	47.8
L. Smith	9	85	380	167	213	2.5	2	35	23.7

DEF. LEADERS

Tackles: C. Marve 121, P. Benoist 85, S. Richardson 84
 Tackles for loss: C. Hayward 8.5, C. Marve 6.5, three tied with 5.5
 Sacks: G. Billinger 3.5, T. Kadri 3, P. Benoist 2.5
 Interceptions: M. Lewis 4, C. Hayward 2, J. Graham 2

Rick Logo and Mike Pelton have been reunited as defensive line coaches, just as they were at Troy several seasons ago.

Pelton filled a spot on the staff that opened when linebackers coach Warren Belin accepted the same position at Georgia.

"(Pelton) and Coach Logo kind of tag-team us," junior defensive tackle **T.J. Greenstone** said. "We get coached up so much ... it really brings out the best in all of us."

• For the third straight year, the Commodores have what they hope will be a formidable tight end tandem in **Brandon Barden** and **Austin Monahan**. The problem is that Monahan played just four games in 2008 (shoulder injury) and seven in 2009 (knee injury).

• The offense must improve on its time of possession from 2009 (26:11) to help the defense, which allowed nearly twice as many points in the second and fourth quarters combined (183) as in the first and third quarters (94).

• The Commodores were winless in SEC play (0-8) for the first time since 2002, coach **Bobby Johnson's** first season. The last two VU coaches, Johnson and Woody Widenhofer, have had two winless conference seasons. Before them, Watson Brown (1986 and 1989) was the last to endure that.

• Cornerback **Trey Wilson** missed virtually all of preseason camp in 2009 because he was injured in a freak accident as he moved into a dorm. He still played in all 12 games as a true freshman. "It let me know that they still had faith in me to come in and still be a playmaker," he said.

• **Jordan Rodgers** says there is pressure in being Aaron Rodgers' younger brother. The Commodores' certainly welcome his pedigree. "I think if it's been emphasized in the family or you did it as kids and you saw — as an example — your older brother, I certainly think it helps," Johnson said.

• The highest-rated member of the 2010 signing class, **Rajaan Bennett**, was murdered in an incident at his family's home in mid-February.

OPPOSING COACHES VIEW

• **On playing against Vanderbilt:** "You don't want them early in season when they're fresh. Injuries will change a football team and depth has always been a problem for them. But they're well coached."

• **On the coaching staff:** "Probably the second-best coached team in league, all the way around. Those guys do an unbelievable job for the talent they have, especially on defense. They do a phenomenal job coaching. You give that staff some of the other defensive players in this league and nobody might make a first down."

• **On Vandy going winless in league after winning a bowl game:** "They just can't stockpile players like Florida and Alabama and LSU and Georgia. You're not comparing apples to apples."



John Cole

the past two seasons. At 6-0, 230, he can sort-of hide behind his defensive line before pouncing on opposing running backs. He's almost always in the right spot and he's a sure and aggressive tackler who has forced seven fumbles in the past two seasons.

Senior John Stokes will be one of the starters on the outside. The other spot is up for grabs among several youngsters.

Players like Richardson and Marve rely on the defensive line to occupy blockers and to create blitz lanes — and the Commodores will blitz, often and in a variety of ways.

The line took a hit in the spring when fifth-year tackle Adam Smotherman sustained a knee injury, which placed his status for the season in doubt.

That put junior T.J. Greenstone and sophomore Rob Lohr in line to be the starters. Both have experience. Greenstone is a highly emotional player who was productive as a reserve in the past two seasons. Now he must show he can maintain that intensity and level of play throughout a starter's number of snaps.

Junior Tim Fugger, senior Terrell Brannon, senior Theron Kadri and red-shirt freshman Walker May form a rotation at end, where a pair of multi-year starters graduated. Playing time will be divided based on situations.

May, for example, is 230 pounds and is much better suited for rushing the passer than stopping the run. Fugger and Brannon are more likely to be on the field for running downs.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore kicker Ryan Fowler tied a school record with 16 field goals in 2009. He made his final eight attempts, earning SEC All-Freshman honors and proving capable in the clutch when he sent a game at Army into overtime with a 41-yarder.

He gets the ball in the air quickly and

THE BEST & BRIGHTEST

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

RB Warren Norman

Norman was the SEC Freshman of the Year and recognized by many outlets as a Freshman All-American. He broke the conference records for kickoff return yards (1,050) and all-purpose yards by a freshman (1,941). ... He was the first freshman since Herschel Walker to lead the SEC in all-purpose yards. ... His 5.4 yards per carry were the most in eight years by a VU player with more than 100 attempts. ... His seven touchdowns (three rushing, three on returns, one receiving) accounted for one-third of the team's total.



EMERGING STAR

SS Sean Richardson

He was one of three true freshmen who played for Vanderbilt in 2008, and he became a full-time starter last season after the graduation of Reshard Langford. ... He missed two starts (but still played) last year after he sustained a hand injury, which required surgery. ... His average of seven tackles per game ranked among the highest for any SEC defensive back. ... He recovered a fumble for the only touchdown in the Commodores' Music City Bowl victory following the 2008 season.



TOP NEWCOMER

FS Kenny Ladler

He registered for the spring semester and took part in spring drills, which is highly unusual at Vanderbilt. He showed in spring drills he was a fast learner and a physical presence. ... There is opportunity at that position given the top two on the depth chart in 2009 were seniors (Ryan Hamilton and Joel Caldwell) and the No. 3 (Jay Fullam) missed time with a hand injury. ... He was an honorable mention Georgia Class 5A all-state selection as a senior at Stephenson High School.



will switch from play to play. His greatest strength is against the run because he makes fast reads, takes the proper angles and flashes downhill to the ball.

Middle linebacker Chris Marve, a junior, has topped 100 tackles in each of

2007 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	21.7	93
Rushing	150.2	59
Passing	176.4	107
Total	326.6	103

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.6	32
Rushing	128.2	32
Passing	197.1	18
Total	325.2	16

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-2	-0.17	73

2008 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	19.2	105
Rushing	133.6	73
Passing	122.6	112
Total	256.2	117

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	19.6	22
Rushing	144.7	70
Passing	174.9	17
Total	319.6	30

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+9	+0.69	19

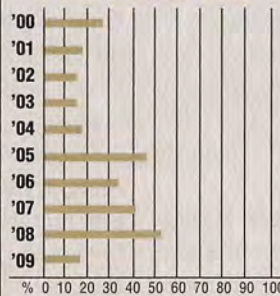
2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	16.3	113
Rushing	160.0	49
Passing	146.3	112
Total	306.3	110

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	23.3	46
Rushing	197.8	105
Passing	164.9	9
Total	362.8	56

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+3	+0.25	45

10-YEAR WINNING TREND



RESULTS (2-10, 0-8)

W	WESTERN CAROLINA	45-0
L	at LSU	9-23
L	MISSISSIPPI STATE	3-15
W	at Rice	36-17
L	OLE MISS	7-23
L	at Army (OT)	13-16
L	GEORGIA	10-34
L	at South Carolina	10-14
L	GEORGIA TECH	31-56
L	at Florida	3-27
L	KENTUCKY	13-24
L	at Tennessee	16-31

Player Profile



Photo by Michael Marti

Larry Smith

Smith Determined to Bounce Back

Larry Smith is candid in his assessment of Vanderbilt's offensive performance in 2009. That doesn't mean he thinks major changes are warranted.

"With how poorly we played last year, our main focus is just to execute and to focus on the little things," the junior quarterback said. "Hopefully, I can hit the ground and keep running."

Of course, running is exactly what ended his season, his first as the starter. He was on his way to a career-long 35-yard gain

late in the first quarter against Georgia Tech when he felt his hamstring give way.

In his first season as a starter, Smith completed 46.7 percent of his passes and threw for four touchdowns with seven interceptions before he was hurt in the ninth game. He also rushed for 213 yards and two touchdowns.

"He really lit it up that first half against (Georgia) Tech," coach Bobby Johnson said. "It was really tough to watch him go down and then not be able to finish that game."

"Then, heck, he was done for the year."

So Smith watched. He watched as senior Mackenzi Adams started the final three games and finished off the 2-10 campaign. Plus, he watched film — a lot of it. There was film of his own performances, his team's games, opposing defenses and so on.

"We would much rather have had him playing — he'd have learned a lot more playing," Johnson said. "But (with) video and everything we've got nowadays, you can learn a lot when you're not even playing or practicing. ... You can learn a lot without actually being on the field."

"Larry had a good attitude about it."

He also waited. He waited for his hamstring to heal, which was not until mid-January. He waited for his opportunity to get back on the field with his teammates, which seemed more important when junior college quarterback Jordan Rodgers — the younger brother of Green Bay Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers — signed in December and enrolled for the spring semester.

"It was a little rough because I tried to come back a little early," Smith said. "By Christmas break, I was home running a little bit and still tweaked it."

Now he can't wait to get back to playing games.

"I'm just trying to make strides and execute, trying to be more of a leader and just execute better," he said. "I'm trying to improve on everything — every facet of the game."

is accurate, but needs to get stronger, particularly on kickoffs.

Sophomore Richard Kent becomes the punter following the graduation of Brett Upson, who was a versatile and crafty weapon in the kicking game.

Warren Norman and Zac Stacy once again will add return duties to their roles on offense. Norman returns kickoffs and the same things that serve him well as a back (quick, decisive cuts) make him dangerous as a returner.

SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The most important moment in the Commodores' schedule comes in the final Saturday in September. That would be an open date.

Vanderbilt played 12 consecutive weeks last fall without a break, and that grind exacted a heavy physical toll.

This year's off week is preceded by two conference games (vs. LSU and at Ole Miss) and is followed by two non-conference contests (at Connecticut and vs. Eastern Michigan). That means there is an opportunity to rest, assess and adjust schemes, personnel or whatever before the heart of conference play begins in mid-October.

The start won't be easy. The first two games are against 2009 bowl teams Northwestern and LSU, but both are at home. The Commodores haven't played their first two on their own field since 2007, so they need to take advantage and manage at least a split.

— David Bocclair

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	NORTHWESTERN	8-5
Sept. 11	LSU	9-4
Sept. 18	at Ole Miss	9-4
Oct. 2	at Connecticut	8-5
Oct. 9	EASTERN MICHIGAN	0-12
Oct. 16	at Georgia	8-5
Oct. 23	SOUTH CAROLINA	7-6
Oct. 30	at Arkansas	8-5
Nov. 6	FLORIDA	13-1
Nov. 13	at Kentucky	7-6
Nov. 20	TENNESSEE	7-6
Nov. 27	WAKE FOREST	5-7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

PASS EFFICIENCY

	G	CMP	ATT	INT	PCT.	YDS	TD	EFFIC.
1. Ryan Mallett, Arkansas	12	210	367	7	57.2	3422	29	157.8
2. Tim Tebow, Florida	13	182	279	5	65.2	2413	18	155.6
3. Chris Todd, Auburn	12	178	297	6	59.9	2377	21	146.5
4. Greg McElroy, Alabama	13	192	314	4	61.1	2450	17	142.0
5. Joe Cox, Georgia	12	170	303	1	56.1	2426	22	138.1
6. Jordan Jefferson, LSU	11	169	272	6	62.1	1964	16	137.8
7. Kodi Burns, Auburn	12	5	13	0	38.5	75	2	137.7
8. Chris Relf, Mississippi State	10	22	41	3	53.7	283	5	137.2
9. Jonathan Crompton, Tennessee	12	209	358	12	58.4	2565	26	135.8
10. Jevan Snead, Ole Miss	12	178	328	17	54.3	2464	20	127.1

RUSHING

	G	ATT.	YDS	AVG.	TD	AVG/G
1. Anthony Dixon, Mississippi State	11	257	1391	5.4	12	126.5
2. Mark Ingram, Alabama	13	249	1542	6.2	15	118.6
3. Montario Hardesty, Tennessee	12	264	1306	4.9	12	108.8
4. Ben Tate, Auburn	12	243	1254	5.2	8	104.5
5. Dexter McCluster, Ole Miss	12	147	985	6.7	6	82.1
6. Derrick Locke, Kentucky	11	177	843	4.8	6	76.6
7. Tim Tebow, Florida	13	203	859	4.2	13	66.1
8. Warren Norman, Vanderbilt	12	145	783	5.4	3	65.2
9. Charles Scott, LSU	9	116	542	4.7	4	60.2
10. Caleb King, Georgia	9	98	534	5.4	5	59.3

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	RUSH	PASS	PLAYS	TOT	YDS/G
1. Ryan Mallett, Arkansas	12	-35	3422	424	3387	282.2
2. Tim Tebow, Florida	13	859	2413	482	3272	251.7
3. Stephen Garcia, South Carolina	12	130	2733	499	2863	238.6
4. Jevan Snead, Ole Miss	12	111	2464	375	2575	214.6
5. Jonathan Crompton, Tennessee	12	3	2565	395	2568	214.0
6. Joe Cox, Georgia	12	-34	2426	333	2392	199.3
7. Greg McElroy, Alabama	13	110	2450	361	2560	196.9
8. Jordan Jefferson, LSU	11	160	1964	376	2124	193.1
9. Chris Todd, Auburn	12	-101	2377	337	2276	189.7
10. Larry Smith, Vanderbilt	9	213	1126	312	1339	148.8

INTERCEPTIONS

	G	NO.	YDS	TD	LONG	AVG/G
1. Mark Barron, Alabama	13	7	125	1	77	0.54
2. Corey Broomfield, Mississippi State	12	6	118	2	64	0.50
3. Sam Maxwell, Kentucky	12	6	92	1	56	0.50
4. Myron Lewis, Vanderbilt	11	4	50	0	29	0.36
5. Johnthan Banks, Mississippi State	12	4	145	2	100	0.33
6. Charles Mitchell, Mississippi State	12	4	131	1	71	0.33
7. Walter McFadden, Auburn	12	4	54	1	29	0.33
8. Joe Haden, Florida	13	4	20	0	20	0.31
9. A.J. Jones, Florida	11	3	1	0	1	0.27
10. Chad Jones, LSU	12	3	71	0	38	0.25

SCORING

	G	TD	FG	XPT	2XP	PTS	PTS/G
1. Leigh Tiffin, Alabama	13	0	29	38	0	125	9.6
2. Mark Ingram, Alabama	13	18	0	0	0	108	8.3
3. Randall Cobb, Kentucky	11	15	0	0	0	90	8.2
4. Alex Tejada, Arkansas	12	0	14	56	0	98	8.2
5. Blair Walsh, Georgia	12	0	19	37	0	94	7.8
6. Caleb Sturgis, Florida	13	0	21	38	0	101	7.8
7. Wes Byrum, Auburn	12	0	14	49	0	91	7.6
8. Joshua Shene, Ole Miss	12	0	15	40	0	85	7.1
9. Daniel Lincoln, Tennessee	9	0	10	33	0	63	7.0
10. Josh Jasper, LSU	12	0	16	32	0	80	6.7

TEAM STATISTICS

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG/P	TD	AVG/G
1. Florida	13	849	5751	6.8	51	442.4
2. Arkansas	12	778	5272	6.8	54	439.3
3. Auburn	12	842	5188	6.2	45	432.3
4. Alabama	13	884	5379	6.1	44	413.8
5. Ole Miss	12	800	4867	6.1	42	405.6
6. Tennessee	12	821	4745	5.8	45	395.4
7. Mississippi State	12	821	4463	5.4	30	371.9
8. Georgia	12	725	4342	6.0	36	361.8
9. South Carolina	12	811	4311	5.3	29	359.2
10. Kentucky	12	809	4033	5.0	38	336.1
11. LSU	12	722	3716	5.1	32	309.7
12. Vanderbilt	12	803	3676	4.6	18	306.3

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	TD	FG	XPT	2XP	DXP	SAF	PTS	AVG
1. Arkansas	12	58	14	56	0	0	1	448	37.3
2. Florida	13	56	21	52	0	0	0	451	34.7
3. Auburn	12	50	14	49	0	1	1	395	32.9
4. Alabama	13	47	29	39	2	0	0	412	31.7
5. Tennessee	12	47	13	44	0	0	1	367	30.6
6. Ole Miss	12	46	15	42	0	0	0	363	30.2
7. Georgia	12	39	19	37	1	0	1	332	27.7
8. Kentucky	12	43	9	39	0	0	1	326	27.2
9. Mississippi State	12	37	16	35	0	0	1	307	25.6
10. LSU	12	37	16	32	1	0	1	306	25.5
11. South Carolina	12	30	17	28	0	0	1	261	21.8
12. Vanderbilt	12	21	16	20	0	0	1	196	16.3

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	YDS	AVG.	TD	YDS/G
1. Mississippi State	12	555	2731	4.9	21	227.6
2. Florida	13	521	2928	5.6	26	225.2
3. Alabama	13	550	2806	5.1	27	215.8
4. Auburn	12	511	2566	5.0	21	213.8
5. Kentucky	12	509	2319	4.6	26	193.2
6. Ole Miss	12	453	2194	4.8	20	182.8
7. Tennessee	12	446	2038	4.6	18	169.8
8. Vanderbilt	12	451	1920	4.3	12	160.0
9. Georgia	12	407	1885	4.6	14	157.1
10. Arkansas	12	375	1632	4.4	23	136.0
11. LSU	12	410	1555	3.8	14	129.6
12. South Carolina	12	409	1500	3.7	11	125.0

PASS OFFENSE

	G	CMP	ATT	PCT.	YDS	AVG.	TD	AVG/G
1. Arkansas	12	232	403	57.6	3640	9.0	31	303.3
2. South Carolina	12	228	402	56.7	2811	7.0	18	234.2
3. Tennessee	12	218	375	58.1	2707	7.2	27	225.6
4. Ole Miss	12	190	347	54.8	2673	7.7	22	222.8
5. Auburn	12	198	331	59.8	2622	7.9	24	218.5
6. Florida	13	218	328	56.5	2823	8.6	25	217.2
7. Georgia	12	175	318	55.0	2457	7.7	22	204.8
8. Alabama	13	206	334	61.7	2573	7.7	17	197.9
9. LSU	12	185	312	59.3	2161	6.9	18	180.1
10. Vanderbilt	12	170	352	48.3	1756	5.0	6	146.3
11. Mississippi State	12	153	266	57.5	1732	6.5	9	144.3
12. Kentucky	12	165	300	55.0	1714	5.7	12	142.8

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG/P	TD	AVG/G
1. Alabama	13	774	3142	4.1	14	241.7
2. Florida	13	776	3299	4.3	13	253.8
3. South Carolina	12	758	3656	4.8	25	304.7
4. Tennessee	12	787	3706	4.7	21	308.8
5. Ole Miss	12	806	3832	4.8	21	319.3
6. LSU	12	835	3919	4.7	18	326.6
7. Georgia	12	776	3941	5.1	34	328.4
8. Auburn	12	830	4242	5.1	39	353.5
9. Vanderbilt	12	845	4353	5.2	32	362.8
10. Kentucky	12	798	4355	5.5	32	362.9
11. Mississippi State	12	774	4392	5.7	36	366.0
12. Arkansas	12	817	4822	5.9	35	401.8

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	TD	FG	XPT	2XP	DXP	SAF	PTS	AVG
1. Alabama	13	16	10	15	0	0	1	143	11.0
2. Florida	13	15	16	12	0	0	0	150	11.5
3. LSU	12	18	21	15	1	0	2	192	16.0
4. Ole Miss	12	24	18	23	0	1	0	223	18.6
5. South Carolina	12	29	14	27	0	0	1	245	20.4
6. Tennessee	12	25	25	25	0	0	1	252	21.0
7. Kentucky	12	35	11	31	0	0	0	274	22.8
8. Vanderbilt	12	33	17	31	0	0	0	280	23.3
9. Arkansas	12	36	20	31	1	0	0	309	25.8
10. Georgia	12	38	17	34	1	0	1	317	26.4
11. Mississippi State	12	41	12	39	0	0	0	321	26.8
12. Auburn	12	41	14	35	0	0	0	323	26.9

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	ATT	YARDS	AVG.	TD	YDS/G
1. Alabama	13	367	1013	2.8	5	77.9
2. Florida	13	425	1330	3.1	6	102.3
3. Georgia	12	447	1531	3.4	11	127.6
4. LSU	12	454	1610	3.5	6	134.2
5. South Carolina	12	431	1644	3.8	15	137.0
6. Ole Miss	12	442	1684	3.8	10	140.3
7. Tennessee	12	411	1715	4.2	16	142.9
8. Mississippi State	12	442	1752	4.0	18	146.0
9. Arkansas	12	446	1801	4.0	14	150.1
10. Auburn	12	456	1940	4.3	24	161.7
11. Kentucky	12	476	2198	4.6	16	183.2
12. Vanderbilt	12	540	2374	4.4	19	197.8

PASS DEFENSE

	G	CMP	ATT	PCT.	YDS	AVG.	TD	AVG/G
1. Florida	13	181	351	51.6	1969	5.6	7	151.5
2. Alabama	13	193	407	47.4	2129	5.9	9	163.8
3. Vanderbilt	12	171	305	56.1	1979	6.5	13	164.9
4. Tennessee	12	210	376	55.9	1991	5.3	5	165.9
5. South Carolina	12	183	327	56.0	2012	6.2	10	167.7
6. Ole Miss	12	184	364	50.5	2148	5.9	11	179.0
7. Kentucky	12	155	322	48.1	2157	6.7	16	179.8
8. Auburn	12	206	374	55.1	2302	6.2	15	191.8
9. LSU	12	204	381	53.5	2309	6.1	12	192.4
10. Georgia	12	189	329	57.4	2410	7.3	23	200.8
11. Mississippi State	12	187	332	56.3	2640	8.0	18	220.0
12. Arkansas	12	222	371	59.8	3021	8.1	21	251.8

KICKOFF RETURNS

KICKOFF RETURNS	G	NO	YDS	TD	AVG.
1. Florida	13	36	939	1	26.1
2. Alabama	13	31	774	0	25.0
3. Mississippi State	12	61	1514	1	24.8
4. Arkansas	12	50	1226	1	24.5
5. Kentucky	12	52	1240	1	23.8
6. Tennessee	12	52	1235	0	23.8
7. Ole Miss	12	45	1064	2	23.6
8. Auburn	12	58	1368	1	23.6
9. Vanderbilt	12	53	1180	3	22.3
10. South Carolina	12	49	1056	0	21.6
11. Georgia	12	58	1220	2	21.0
12. LSU	12	41	765	0	18.7

Unstoppable Houston Blasts Off Toward Conference Title

Changes in Conference USA were abundant after last season. East Carolina coach Skip Holtz bolted for South Florida and was replaced by Texas Tech assistant Ruffin McNeill.

Memphis and Marshall also hired new coaches. Memphis summoned LSU assistant Larry Porter, a Tiger alum, and Marshall tabbed John "Doc" Holliday.

Also, East Carolina defensive lineman Linval Joseph, SMU running back Shawnbrey McNeal and Marshall running back Darius Marshall left school early to put their names in the NFL Draft.

But the league's marquee player — Heisman Trophy candidate and prolific passer Case Keenum — decided to return.

Keenum's numbers the past two seasons for the University of Houston have been staggering. He led the FBS in practically every passing category last fall, including total offense per game

(416.4), yards passing per game (405.1) and completions per game (35.1).

Keenum threw for 5,671 yards and had five 500-yard plus games, while completing 70 percent of his passes. As a result, Keenum had three receivers who topped 1,000 yards ... and each is returning.

Houston's top competition in the West could come from the SMU Mustangs, who are rapidly improving under coach June Jones. Jones has found a quarterback in Kyle Padron who is perfectly suited to running the pass-oriented attack. Padron was named the MVP in the team's lopsided win over Nevada in the Hawaii Bowl, where he passed for 460 yards.

In the East Division, East Carolina — the two-time defending league champion — likely will see its run come to an end. The Pirates lost an abundance of talent, and coach Skip Holtz departed to take a job at a BCS conference program: South Florida.

The Pirates' fall will make Central Florida and Southern Miss the favorites to battle for the right to play Houston in the C-USA championship game.

UCF is coming off a strong second half of 2009, when it won its final six league games and earned a berth in the St. Petersburg Bowl against Rutgers. The Knights return the league's top defensive player, end Bruce Miller, along with 1,000-yard back Brynn Harvey.

Southern Miss, like UCF, finished strong with four wins in its final six regular-season games to go to the program's eighth straight bowl and 12th in 13 years. What makes the Golden Eagles dangerous is the return of two starting quarterbacks — Austin Davis and Martevious Young. Young made nine starts after Davis was injured and tossed 16 touchdowns with only three interceptions.

— Phil Stukenborg

Conference USA Picks

Good news

Bad news

Our call

1. UCF

DE Bruce Miller, the reigning C-USA Defensive Player of the Year, is an All-America candidate.

RB Brynn Harvey underwent knee surgery in the spring; could miss first month of the season.

With Miller, Harvey and an improved quarterback position, this is the team to beat in the East Division.

2. Southern Miss

QB Austin Davis should be fully recovered from a torn foot ligament suffered last October.

Running game lost Damion Fletcher, who had four 1,000-yard seasons and finished with 5,302 yards.

If the defense improves, the Golden Eagles will push UCF for division honors.

3. Marshall

TE Lee Smith and LB Mario Harvey are reasons the Thundering Herd will compete in the East.

Darius Marshall, a 1,000-yard rusher last year, did not return for his senior year.

New coach Doc Holliday has enough talent on both sides to be a factor ... if UCF and Southern Miss falter.

4. East Carolina

New coach Ruffin McNeill brings in high-powered Texas Tech offense and an attacking 4-3 defense.

McNeill's most experienced QB, Josh Jordan, had 61 yards passing last year. Defensive front seven is new.

McNeill is an alum, so that will help buy him some valuable time as the Pirates rebuild.

5. Memphis

Former Tiger RB Larry Porter takes over as coach, bringing a rep as one of the nation's top recruiters.

Must replace the two leading receivers in school history and 1,000-yard RB Curtis Steele.

A demanding schedule may overshadow any improvements Porter, a former LSU assistant, brings to the program.

6. UAB

UAB added 12 junior college transfers, five of whom participated in spring practice.

Gone is Joe Webb, the only player in NCAA history to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in consecutive years.

With a tough schedule, UAB is staring at a sixth consecutive losing season.

1. Houston

QB Case Keenum could top 2009's ridiculous passing numbers: 5,671 yards and 44 TDs.

Only two C-USA teams allowed more points in 2009 than Houston (30.1 per game).

Who's going to stop Houston's potent offense, led by Keenum and WR James Cleveland? Let's see ... no one.

2. SMU

SMU went from 1-11 in 2008 to 8-5, earning the school's first bowl trip since 1984.

WR Emmanuel Sanders, RB Shawnbrey McNeal and LB Chase Kennerly are gone.

Behind promising QB Kyle Padron, the Hawaii Bowl MVP, SMU rises to next best in the West.

3. Tulsa

QB G.J. Kinne has settled into the position; Charles Clay is one of league's top returning backs.

A lackluster secondary has to replace dependable James Lockett and Kenny Simms.

Tulsa started 4-1 a year ago and unraveled. Things should be more stable this year.

4. UTEP

Trevor Vittatoe passed for 3,300 yards and 17 TDs; RB Donald Buckram led C-USA in rushing.

UTEP's rushing defense was among nation's worst, allowing 201 yards per game.

Offense isn't in the same class as Houston's, so the Miners need to get better on defense to make a move.

5. Rice

Michigan transfer RB Sam McGuffie boosts what was one of the nation's worst rushing teams.

The Owls remain one of the youngest teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Rice will need another season to mature before it competes for a bowl game.

6. Tulane

LB Trent Mackey, a Louisiana native, is eligible after transferring from Duke.

Team's top offensive weapons — RB Andre Anderson and WR Jeremy Williams — are gone.

Bob Toledo has struggled — 9-27 in three seasons — in perhaps the toughest job in the league. He should struggle again.

Lindy's 2010 ALL C-USA Team

OFFENSE - First Team

QB	Case Keenum	Sr.	Houston
RB	Donald Buckram	Sr.	UTEP
RB	Charles Clay	Sr.	Tulsa
WR	James Cleveland	Sr.	Houston
WR	DeAndre Brown	Jr.	Southern Miss
TE	Lee Smith	So.	Marshall
C	Cameron Zipp	Sr.	Southern Miss
OL	Jah Reid	Sr.	UCF
OL	Ryan Tillman Jr.	Jr.	Marshall
OL	Scott Mitchell	Sr.	Rice
OL	Kelvin Beachum	Jr.	SMU
AP	Damaris Johnson	Jr.	Tulsa
K	Kevin Fitzpatrick	Jr.	Tulsa

DEFENSE - First Team

DL	Bruce Miller	Sr.	UCF
DL	Cordarro Law	Jr.	Southern Miss
DL	Scott Solomon	Sr.	Rice
DL	Bryant Turner	Sr.	UAB
LB	Mario Harvey	Sr.	Marshall
LB	Korey Williams	Jr.	Southern Miss
LB	Marcus McGraw	Jr.	Houston
DB	Marcus Ball	Sr.	Memphis
DB	Emmanuel Davis	Jr.	East Carolina
DB	Hiram Atwater	Sr.	UAB
DB	Josh Robinson	So.	UCF
P	Michael Such	Sr.	Tulsa

OFFENSE - Second Team

QB	G.J. Kinne	Jr.	Tulsa
RB	Brynn Harvey	Jr.	UCF
RB	Bryce Beall	Jr.	Houston
WR	Damaris Johnson	Jr.	Tulsa
WR	Tyron Carrier	Jr.	Houston
TE	Vance McDonald	So.	Rice
C	Chad Schofield	Sr.	Marshall
OL	Dominik Riley	Sr.	Memphis
OL	Cliff McCray	Sr.	UCF
OL	Chris Hubbard	So.	UAB
OL	Chris Thompson	Sr.	Houston
AP	Dwayne Harris	Sr.	ECU
K	Matt Szymanski	Sr.	SMU

DEFENSE - Second Team

DL	Dontari Poe	So.	Memphis
DL	Vinny Curry	Jr.	Marshall
DL	Anthony Gray	Jr.	Southern Miss
DL	David Williams	Sr.	UCF
LB	Jamon Hughes	Sr.	Memphis
LB	Ronnie Thornton	Jr.	Southern Miss
LB	Derrick Hallman	Sr.	UCF
DB	Travis Bradshaw	Jr.	Rice
DB	DeQuan Bembry	Jr.	Marshall
DB	Travis Simmons	Sr.	East Carolina
DB	Braxton Amy	Sr.	UTEP
P	Kyle Martens	Jr.	Rice

THE BIG ONES

Sept. 2	Southern Miss at South Carolina
Sept. 5	SMU at Texas Tech
Sept. 10	West Virginia at Marshall
Sept. 11	NC State at UCF
Sept. 17	Kansas at Southern Miss
Sept. 18	Houston at UCLA
Sept. 24	TCU at SMU
Oct. 9	Mississippi State at Houston
Oct. 23	Houston at SMU
Oct. 30	Tulsa at Notre Dame
Nov. 5	UCF at Houston
Nov. 6	Tennessee at Memphis
Nov. 13	Southern Miss at UCF
Nov. 20	Houston at Southern Miss
Nov. 27	Houston at Texas Tech

Bowl Connection

Champion

Liberty Bowl vs. SEC

C-USA #2

St. Petersburg Bowl vs. Big East

C-USA #3

New Orleans Bowl vs. Sun Belt

C-USA #4

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl
vs. Mountain West

C-USA #5

EagleBank Bowl vs. ACC

C-USA #6

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl vs. WAC

TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Bruce Miller	DL	Sr.	UCF	Scouts are impressed with Miller's size and speed.
2. Case Keenum	QB	Sr.	Houston	His 5,671 passing yards in '09 third most in an NCAA season.
3. James Cleveland	WR	Sr.	Houston	Sure-handed receiver benefiting from Keenum's skills.
4. DeAndre Brown	WR	Jr.	So. Miss	Has penchant for making the big play.
5. Charles Clay	FB	Sr.	Tulsa	Strength is catching the ball out of the backfield.
6. Marcus Ball	DB	Sr.	Memphis	Natural instincts at safety; closes fast, great recovery speed.
7. Mario Harvey	LB	Sr.	Marshall	Perhaps the top linebacker in C-USA.
8. Cordarro Law	DL	Jr.	So. Miss	Another in a traditionally long line of great USM linemen.
9. Donald Buckram	RB	Sr.	UTEP	Averaged 132.8 yards per game in 2010.
10. Lee Smith	TE	Sr.	Marshall	Ex-Tennessee player is an outstanding blocker.

Most Valuable Player

Case Keenum
QB, Houston

Offensive Player of the Year

DeAndre Brown
WR, Southern Miss

Defensive Player of the Year

Bruce Miller
DL, UCF

Newcomer of the Year

Sam McGuffie
RB, Rice

HONOR ROLL

Most accurate passer	Case Keenum	Houston
Strongest arm	Case Keenum	Houston
Best scrambler	G.J. Kinne	Tulsa
Cooldest in the clutch	Austin Davis, QB	Southern Miss
Toughest to bring down	Donald Buckram, RB	UTEP
Best hands	James Cleveland, WR	Houston
Most dangerous deep threat	Tyron Carrier, WR	Houston
Best pass blocker	Kelvin Beachum	SMU
Best run blocker	Jah Reid, OT	UCF
Best pass rusher	Bruce Miller, DE	UCF
Best cover corner	Josh Robinson	UCF
Special teams demon	Damaris Johnson	Tulsa



TIGERS

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Eric Price

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jay Hopson

STADIUM: Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium: 62,380

AT A GLANCE

2009

2-10 overall, 1-7 C-USA (6th, East)

COACH

Larry Porter — At Memphis and overall:
1st season

RETURNING STARTERS

14; 7 offense, 7 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR Jermaine McKenzie, DE Frank Trotter,
DT Dontari Poe, LB Jamon Hughes,
S Marcus Ball

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The defense — which has uncharacteristically been a weakness for the program in recent years — should be much improved. Hopson, the defensive coordinator who comes to Memphis from Michigan, will have one of the league's top safeties in Marcus Ball and a strong defensive front coached by former Alabama head coach Mike DuBose.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Memphis lacks experience at quarterback. Only Tyler Bass, a redshirt sophomore, has experience. Cannon Smith is a transfer from the University of Miami who played in one game for the Hurricanes. Junior college transfer Andy Summerlin has potential, but injured his shoulder in the spring. Ryan Williams won the spring game MVP award, but is a true freshman.

KEY LOSSES

RB Curtis Steele, WR Duke Calhoun,
WR Carlos Singleton, LB Greg Jackson

OVERVIEW

Former LSU assistant Larry Porter, a running back for Memphis in the early 1990s, returns to coach his alma mater. Porter takes over for Tommy West, who spent nine years at Memphis and led the program to five bowl games before slipping to 2-10 last season. A challenging schedule — including Mississippi State and Tennessee — will make it a difficult debut season for Porter.

Porter's No-Nonsense Approach Suits Memphis Fine

When Larry Porter was a running back for Memphis in the early 1990s, his teammates knew he was different. He was concerned with things other than himself and how many carries he might get. He wanted to know what everybody's role was and how it impacted the success of the team.

For those teammates, it was no surprise that Porter, a former assistant to Les Miles at Oklahoma State and LSU, was named to replace Tommy West after a 2-10 season in 2009. Porter quickly established a tone of structure and discipline, closing practices that once were open to boosters, fans, area high school coaches and former players.

While those groups might have been upset at the policy, many quickly will forget if Porter is able to make the Tigers a contender in Conference USA. It's no secret that Memphis is the only original member of the 15-year-old league yet to win a C-USA title.

Known for his recruiting prowess, Porter began his tenure by recruiting a strong staff, led by offensive coordinator Eric Price, formerly with the Kansas City Chiefs, and defensive coordinator Jay Hopson, the ex-Southern Miss defensive coordinator who spent last season as a defensive assistant at Michigan.

Porter also hired former Alabama head coach Mike DuBose to handle his defensive line and former Michigan State running back Sedrick Irvin to coach his running backs.

"Eric is sharp and intelligent and has a great football mind," Porter said. "He's good for our kids and our program."

Price spent four years (2004-07) as the offensive coordinator at UTEP under his father, Mike, who continues to coach the Miners.

"I really didn't plan on getting back into college football initially," said Price. "But the possibility of being in Memphis and

being a coordinator again was exciting."

Hopson will have a familiarity with the league having spent considerable time in C-USA with Southern Miss (2001-03 and 2005-07).

"He is exactly what I want," Porter said. "Jay is going to bring a relentless amount of effort and toughness."

OFFENSE

One of Porter's top priorities in spring practice was finding a quarterback. Memphis lost three of its top four quarterbacks from a year ago and opened spring with five candidates, including three who had never taken an FBS snap.

Freshman Ryan Williams chose to graduate early from his high school in Miramar, Fla., to enroll at Memphis. The decision may benefit him in the fall.

Williams, 6-5 and 220 pounds, moved quickly up the depth chart and settled in at No. 2. He was named offensive MVP in the spring game after completing 15 of 17 passes and throwing for three touchdowns.

Also competing for the job will be Miami transfer Cannon Smith, who spent most of the spring running the No. 1 offense. Junior college transfer Andy Summerlin, who missed a large portion of the spring after undergoing surgery on his shoulder, is a candidate if he's healthy.

The only quarterback with considerable experience is sophomore Tyler Bass, who started several games last season before injuring his shoulder.

The Tigers lost their top running back — 1,000-yard rusher Curtis Steele — and the top two receivers in the program's history. But they return their offensive line, led by veteran starter Dominik Riley.

Porter expects incoming freshman Jerrell Rhodes to be in the mix at running back with returnees Lance Smith, a for-



Dontari Poe

mer Wisconsin player, and Gregory Ray, a player with an oft-injured past who enjoyed an injury-free spring.

Several newcomers at receiver are capable of making big plays, including Jermaine McKenzie, another Miami transfer, and junior college transfers Dejarrius Adams and Billy Foster.

DEFENSE

New coordinator Jay Hopson didn't inherit the best of units. Memphis's defense ranked near the bottom of most NCAA defensive categories, including 116th in total defense, allowing 457.5 yards per game, so Hopson will have little place to go but up.

Hopson understands the challenge and made several spring moves — Winston Bowens from linebacker to defensive end, Dasmie Cathey from defensive line to linebacker and DeRon Furr from defensive back to linebacker.

Scouting Report: Offense

2009 stats: 158.2 ypg rushing (3rd in C-USA/53rd NCAA), 214.8 passing (7th/64th), 373.1 total offense (7th/63rd), 21.8 ppg (9th/95th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Cannon Smith	So.	Miami transfer worked with first team in spring.	Ryan Williams, Fr.
RB	Gregory Ray	Sr.	Strong spring gives oft-injured RB a chance.	Jerrell Rhodes, Fr.
WR	Jermaine McKenzie	Jr.	Another Miami transfer expected to be a factor.	Billy Foster, Jr.
WR	Marcus Rucker	So.	Second-leading returning receiver with 18 catches.	Dejarrius Adams, Jr.
WR	Curtis Johnson	So.	Had 8 catches for 72 yards in reserve role in '09.	Cam Baker, Jr.*
TE	Deven Onarheim*	Sr.	Had nine starts; averaged 9.1 yards per catch.	Brooks Johnson, Fr.
LT	Ronald Leary*	Jr.	All C-USA freshman in '08, starts for second year.	Kindley Jacques, Sr.
LG	Joel McCleod*	Jr.	Ex-defensive lineman remains on offensive side.	Ricky Hart, Fr.
C	Brad Paul*	Sr.	A transfer in 2009, has settled into center role.	Michael Antonescu, Jr.
RG	Dominik Riley*	Sr.	Veteran of the group is in fourth season as a starter.	Jeremy Williams, Jr.
RT	Jamie McCoy	So.	Tremendous upside; dad played at Southern Miss.	Tommy Walker, Jr.*
K	Paulo Henriques	So.	Handled kickoffs as a freshman, had four touchbacks.	Austin Weaver, So.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

2009 stats: 174.1 ypg rushing (8th in C-USA/96th NCAA), 283.4 passing (11th/117th), 457.5 total defense (11th/116th), 34.8 ppg (10th/110th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Winston Bowens*	Sr.	After three years at linebacker, joins front line.	Justin Thompson, Sr.
DT	Dontari Poe*	So.	His seven tackles for lost yardage led team.	D'Angelo McCrary, Jr.
NT	Charlie Bryant*	Sr.	Mammoth lineman is 6-8 and had six starts in '09.	Jimmy Robinson, Fr.
DE	Frank Trotter*	Jr.	Moves from DT to DE; earned spring MVP honor.	Lester Lawson, Sr.
LB	DeRon Furr	So.	Ex-Auburn signee moves from defensive back.	Terrence Thomas, Jr.
LB	Jamon Hughes*	Sr.	Ex-Mississippi State player led team with 87 stops.	Ricky Holloway, So.
LB	Dasmie Cathey	Jr.	Moves from defensive line; a 6-6 linebacker.	Jeremy Longstreet, Sr.
CB	Darius Davis*	Sr.	Moves from safety to his natural position.	Randy Powell, Fr.
CB	Mohammed Seisay	Fr.	Solid spring moved Seisay atop depth chart.	D.A. Griffin, Sr.*
SS	Marcus Ball	Sr.	Ex-Florida State player is leader of defense.	Tremaine McKenzie, So.
FS	Derek Smith	Fr.	One of two freshmen on first team after spring.	Delmon Robinson, Jr.
P	Josh Booker	Jr.	Was a prolific dual-threat QB in high school.	Austin Weaver, So.

*Returning Starter

The defensive line is anchored in the middle by emerging playmaker Dontari Poe and reliable veteran Frank Trotter. Poe led the defense with seven tackles for lost yardage and forced three fumbles. Trotter, defensive MVP of the spring game, seems to have benefited from his move from defensive tackle to end.

Former Mississippi State player Jamon Hughes burst onto the scene last fall, and the punishing linebacker led the team with 87 tackles, including six for loss. Hughes possesses the speed to close quickly to the football.

The marquee player on defense is another transfer from a FBS program who made his Memphis debut last fall.

Safety Marcus Ball came from Florida State and should thrive in Hopson's defensive scheme. Ball has NFL-worthy recovery speed and a flair for the acrobatic interception. He should benefit from Darius Davis' move to cornerback, a more

natural position for the Memphis native's skill set.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Memphis must replace third-team AP All-American punter Matt Reagan, who also was a reliable place-kicker. Paulo Henriques, who handled kickoffs last season, is slated to move into the place-kicking role.

As a high school senior in nearby West Memphis, Ark., Henriques was 44 of 45 on extra-point tries and made 9 of 13 field goal attempts, the misses all from 55 yards or longer. As a junior, he kicked a 53-yard field goal to break a 20-year-old school record.

The Tigers' return units must improve. Memphis averaged a paltry 3.0 yards per punt return in 2009, last in C-USA and 119th nationally, and was 10th in the league in kickoff return average (20.6). The Tigers have not returned a kickoff for a touchdown since 1996.

— Phil Stukenborg

TIGERS RECRUITING 2010

NAME	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
ADAMS, Dejarrius	WR	6-2	205	Miami, FL	El Camino College
Had 25 receptions for 325 yards and two touchdowns at El Camino in 2008... Third-team All-Dade County as a high school senior in 2005.					
BATTLE, Khiry	LB	6-0	225	Dacula, GA	University of Arkansas
In 2008, played 10 games for Arkansas and had five tackles... Rivals.com rated No. 62 high school safety nationally... Had 86 tackles, including two tackles for loss, one interception and three fumbles caused as a senior.					
BOND, Al	OL	6-4	265	Memphis	Southwind
All-District... Team captain... Played center for basketball team.					
BRUTON, Alphonso	LB	6-3	225	Miami, FL	El Camino College
In two seasons at El Camino, had 23 total tackles, one pass broken up, one blocked kick and scored one safety... Team captain... Third-team All-Dade County as a high school senior in 2006.					
CLARK, Devin	DL	6-2	255	Batesville, MS	South Panola
Ranked No. 26 player in Mississippi by Rivals.com... In 2008, had 86 tackles, including 14.5 quarterback sacks... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game... Played defensive end and tight end.					
FARMS, Johnnie	OL	6-2	305	Perry, GA	Hargrave Military Academy
Participated in spring practice... Rivals.com rated No. 11 offensive guard nationally out of high school... <i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> Super 11... All-State.					
FARR, Sean	WR	6-4	200	Baltimore City, MD	Hargrave Military Academy
Ranked No. 14 prep school player by Rivals.com... Had 1,000 yards receiving in 2009... High school All-State... As a junior, averaged 28.2 yards per reception.					
HARVEY, Fred	LB	5-11	230	Memphis, AR	White Station
Rivals.com rated No. 21 player in Tennessee... All-State... All-District... Helped team to 13-2 record and state championship in 2009... Had 89 tackles, including 13 quarterback sacks as a senior... As a junior, had 78 solo tackles and 21 quarterback sacks.					
HENDERSON, Justin	TE	6-4	250	North Little Rock	North Little Rock
Played defensive end and tight end... Helped team to state semifinals... Had 61-yard touchdown reception in semifinals.					
IFEDI, Martin	DL	6-4	230	Houston, TX	Westside
As a senior, had 85 tackles... Returned an interception 15 yards for a touchdown.					
JONES, Corey	DL	6-4	235	Memphis	Mitchell
All-State... All-Metro... Had 99 tackles, including 64 solo, as a senior... As a junior, had 97 tackles, including 65 solo... Participated in East/West All-Star game.					
LEWIS, Rob'Donovan	RB	5-11	175	Jonesboro, LA	Hodge
Ranked No. 15 player in Louisiana by Rivals.com... As a senior, had 93 tackles, six interceptions and two quarterback sacks... Had 751 yards rushing... Had 20 receptions for 220 yards and one touchdown.					
MCCRAY, D'Angelo	DL	6-4	325	Jacksonville, FL	Coffeyville Community College
Played 11 games in 2008 with EIU... Second-team <i>USA Today</i> All-American... Rivals.com rated No. 45 player nationally... Ranked No. 16 player in Florida by <i>Orlando Sentinel</i> ... Had 40 tackles, including eight quarterback sacks, as a senior.					

NAME	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
NIXON, Taurean	DB	6-1	190	Baton Rouge, LA	Southern Lab
Ranked No. 42 player in Louisiana by Rivals.com... District Defensive Most Valuable Player... Team captain.					
RHODES, Jerrell	RB	5-10	195	Durham, NC	Hargrave Military Academy
Rivals.com rated No. 46 all-purpose back nationally and Top 35 in North Carolina... Ranked among Top 25 players in North Carolina by <i>The Charlotte Observer</i> ... Four-time All-Area... As a senior, had 1,241 yards rushing... Had 1,290 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns as a junior.					
ROBINSON, Delmon	DB	5-11	185	Vicksburg, MS	Copiah Lincoln Community College
Previously signed with Mississippi State... Played in 11 games as a true freshman in 2008... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.					
SAMUELS, Tesla	WR	6-2	175	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Fort Lauderdale
Had 27 receptions for over 650 yards as a senior.					
SCHUETZ, Chris	OL	6-4	285	Southaven	Southaven
<i>Jackson Clarion-Ledger</i> All-State... As a senior, had 12 tackles... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.					
SIMS, Shonte	ATH	6-0	175	Paris	Henry County
Four-year starter at safety... District Most Valuable Player... Completed 42 of 69 passes attempted for 742 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior... Had 594 yards rushing... Had 29 tackles, one interception and one fumble recovered... Team captain.					
STANTON, Ketaraus	RB	6-1	230	Diboll, TX	Cisco College
Had 1,172 yards rushing and seven touchdowns at Cisco... Scored 43 touchdowns in junior and senior high school seasons combined... Set school record with 2,054 yards rushing in 2007... Three-year letterman.					
SUMMERLIN, Andy	QB	6-5	230	Apopka, FL	Coffeyville Community College
All-Conference... Had 2,302 yards passing in 2009... As a high school senior, had more than 1,000 yards passing and nearly 500 yards rushing.					
TRAVIS, Reggie	WR	6-3	180	Plaquemine, LA	Plaquemine
Had 22 receptions for 523 yards in a triple-option offense as a senior... As a junior, had 35 receptions for 400 yards and two touchdowns.					
TROTTER, Bakari	WR	6-4	185	Horn Lake, MS	Horn Lake
As a senior, had four receptions in three games... Had 23 receptions for 442 yards and six touchdowns as a junior.					
WASHINGTON, Todd	DB	5-11	180	Gramercy, LA	Lutcher
Rivals.com rated No. 45 player in Louisiana... All-State... As a senior, had 40 tackles, including 28 solo, and three interceptions.					
WILLIAMS, Ryan	QB	6-5	220	Miramar, FL	Miramar
As a senior, had 2,455 yards passing and 26 touchdowns... Most Valuable Player in the state championship game... Threw for more than 200 yards in each of four games.					
WRIGHT, Kevin	ATH	6-3	215	Baton Rouge, LA	Christian Life Academy
All-District return specialist as a senior... Second-team All-District quarterback... Had 786 yards passing and seven touchdowns... Had 622 yards rushing.					

A LOOK AT THE TIGERS

RESULTS

2-10, 1-7

L	Mississippi	14-45
L	at Middle Tennessee State	14-31
W	Tennessee-Martin	41-14
L	Marshall	16-27
L	at UCF	14-32
W	UTEP	35-20
L	at Southern Miss	16-36
L	East Carolina	19-38
L	at Tennessee	28-56
L	UAB	21-31
L	at Houston	14-55
L	vs. Tulsa	30-33

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING							
	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD	
W. Hudgens	143	236	6	60.6	1544	7	
A. Hall	44	82	5	53.7	332	0	
RECEIVING							
	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
D. Calhoun	68	923	13.6	5	85		
C. Singleton	39	507	13.0	3	44		
S. Joachim	21	235	11.2	1	33		
RUSHING							
	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	Long		
C. Steele	198	1239	6.3	15	77		
T.J. Pitts	83	343	4.1	0	21		
T. Bass	42	180	4.3	1	16		
DEFENSIVE LEADERS							
Tackles: J. Hughes 87, D. Lamar 73, W. Bowens 58							
Tackles for loss: D. Poe 7, G. Jackson 6.5, two tied with 5.5							
Sacks: J. Weaver 4, M. McDonald 3, three tied with 2							
Interceptions: M. Ball 2, B. Wright 2, five tied with 1							

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Record
Sept. 4	at Mississippi State	5-7
Sept. 11	at East Carolina	9-5
Sept. 18	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE	10-3
Sept. 25	at UTEP	4-8
Oct. 2	TULSA	5-7
Oct. 9	at Louisville	4-8
Oct. 16	SOUTHERN MISS	7-6
Oct. 30	HOUSTON	10-4
Nov. 6	TENNESSEE	7-6
Nov. 13	at Marshall	7-6
Nov. 20	at UAB	5-7
Nov. 27	UCF	8-5



GOLDEN EAGLES

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Blake Anderson

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Bradford

STADIUM: M.M. Roberts Stadium: 36,000

AT A GLANCE

2009

7-6 overall, 5-3 C-USA (3rd, East)

COACH

Larry Fedora — At Southern Miss and overall: 14-12, 2 years

RETURNING STARTERS

14; 4 offense, 9 defense, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH

WR DeAndre Brown, QB Austin Davis, DE Cordarro Law, LB Martez Smith, NT Anthony Gray

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Davis returns from an injury and will have Brown to throw to for at least another year. Brown finished with 785 yards and nine touchdowns and is one of the most talented receivers in the country. The running game doesn't possess a marquee back like it did the past four seasons, but it should be more than adequate behind senior V.J. Floyd and impressive sophomore Desmond Johnson.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The biggest question mark is on the offensive line, where only center Cameron Zipp returns. Defensively, the only concerns will be in the secondary, which must replace two starters. Redshirt freshman Deron Wilson earned one of the vacated jobs in the spring by taking over at boundary corner. Kendrick Presley moved into the free safety position.

KEY LOSSES

RB Damion Fletcher, RB Tory Harrison, RG Ryan Hebert, WR Gerald Baptiste, CB Andre Watson

OVERVIEW

Fedora has led the Golden Eagles to bowl games in each of his two seasons by getting his team to finish strong. This year he could have Southern Miss in position to win the East Division. The Golden Eagles return a strong 1-2 tandem at quarterback and might field the division's strongest defense. Despite a tough early schedule — South Carolina and Kansas — Southern Miss is a strong candidate for a 17th straight winning season and ninth consecutive bowl.

Striving for More Than Just Consistency in Fedora's Third Year

Coach Larry Fedora doesn't have a traditional five-year plan to return the Golden Eagles to prominence in Conference USA. He's intent on a three-year plan.

A former Oklahoma State offensive coordinator, Fedora was hired three years ago from OSU coach Mike Gundy's staff and is impatient enough, and confident enough, to believe this is the year he leads the Golden Eagles to a league title. What has him sensing success is a defense that returns nine starters and an offense that has two proven quarterbacks.

"I thought we were ready to compete for the title last year, but we were a player or two away from making it happen," Fedora said.

"And it was probably more in the kick-in game than anything else. I just think some of our guys have been involved in the program long enough to know what's at stake here."

Fedora has built on his first recruiting class, a consensus top 50 collection that included DeAndre Brown, one of the nation's top-ranked receivers and the No. 1 recruit in the state of Mississippi. One of his top signees this spring was offensive lineman O.C. Brown, who has drawn comparisons to former Ole Miss All-American left tackle Michael Oher.

The Golden Eagles have tradition to provide momentum as well. Southern Miss will be attempting a 17th consecutive winning season and a ninth consecutive trip to the postseason. The Golden Eagles are in exclusive company as only Florida and Virginia Tech have produced more consecutive winning seasons.

OFFENSE

The offense loses a majority of its line, the most prolific running back in the program's history and two dependable receivers.

But there is good news. Starting quarterback Austin Davis returns from a foot injury that sidelined him for most of last season. Backup Martevious Young also returns, giving Fedora the strongest 1-2 combination at quarterback in C-USA.

Davis, a junior, passed for 1,165 yards and 10 touchdowns before suffering the season-ending injury. He was intercepted only twice and has had only 11 passes picked off in 600 career attempts. Davis is the ideal signal caller in Fedora's spread offense — a quarterback who makes good, quick decisions and is accurate.

Davis was limited in the spring as he was in the final stages of recovering from a torn ligament in his left foot. He is expected to be at full speed in the fall.

"The speed of the game moves very slow for him," Fedora said. "He's very comfortable. He understand passes completely what we're trying to do."

Young started the team's final eight games and went 4-4. What made him effective was his ability to protect the football. He tossed 16 touchdowns and was intercepted only three times.

Still, the work on the offensive side is challenging. Fedora is replacing four starters on the line, the team's top two running backs, two wide receivers and a tight end.

At running back, Fedora was encouraged after spring practice by senior V.J. Floyd and sophomore Desmond Johnson. He also liked the change-of-pace offered by special teams standout Tracey Lampley, who is 5-9 and 170 pounds.

"It may be that we do it by committee this year," said Fedora, who had a 1,000-yard back in Damion Fletcher a year ago. "And I don't have any problem with doing that. I think each one brings something to the table. Lampley is the most versatile of all of them. He is just a tremendous athlete. He can play receiver, too."



Corey Williams

The offense always will be a threat with a healthy Davis throwing to the 6-6 Brown. Brown has 114 catches for 1,902 yards and 21 touchdowns in two seasons and is on pace to own most of the school's receiving records.

"DeAndre has gotten bigger and stronger and probably faster," Fedora said. "I think he's going to be a much-improved player."

The line will get a boost from junior college transfer Jason Weaver.

DEFENSE

There might not be a better front seven in C-USA. Each of the starters on the defensive line — Dedrick Jones, Anthony Gray, Terrance Pope and Cordarro Law — return, as do the starters at linebacker: Martez Smith, Corey Williams and Ronnie Thornton.

"I expect us to play very good defense," Fedora said.

Scouting Report: Offense

2009 stats: 181.4 ypg rushing (2nd in C-USA/33rd NCAA), 235.0 passing (5th/43rd), 416.4 total offense (4th/31st), 32.9 ppg (2nd/18th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Austin Davis*	Jr.	Veteran returning from mid-season foot injury.	Martevious Young, Sr.
RB	V.J. Floyd	Sr.	Strong, between-the-tackles runner.	Desmond Johnson, So.
WR	DeAndre Brown*	Jr.	More than 1,900 receiving yards in first two seasons.	Mujahid Assad, So.
WR	Ryan Balentine	Jr.	Had five catches for 59 yards in limited '09 work.	Kelvin Bolden, Jr.
WR	Quentin Pierce*	So.	Had 7-catch, 108-yard game against UAB with 2 TDs.	William Spight, Jr.
TE	Jonathan Massey	Sr.	His 7 catches, 2 TDs came in first six games of '09.	Ryan Hanks, So.
LT	Darius Barnes	So.	Ex-defensive lineman appeared in 4 games last year.	Lamar Holmes, Jr.
LG	Joe Duhon	So.	Was all-state center in high school in Louisiana.	James Brady, Jr.
C	Cameron Zipp*	Sr.	Only returning starter on offensive line.	Austin Quattrochi, So.
RG	Alex Michael	Sr.	Saw action in 26 games as a reserve past two seasons.	Ed Preston, Fr.
RT	Jason Weaver	Jr.	Mid-year signee from Arizona Western CC.	Thomas Edentfield, Jr.
K	Danny Hrapmann	Jr.	Handled kickoffs in 2009.	Justin Estes, Sr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

2009 stats: 130.9 ypg rushing (3rd in C-USA/43rd NCAA), 261.6 passing (8th/109th), 392.5 total defense (4th/80th), 25.8 ppg (4th/62nd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Dedrick Jones*	Jr.	Beginning third year as a starter	Octavius Thomas, Fr.
DT	Anthony Gray*	Sr.	Considered one of C-USA's top defensive linemen.	Khyri Thornton, Fr.
DT	Terrance Pope*	Jr.	One of four returning starters on defensive front.	John Henderson, Sr.
DE	Cordarro Law*	Jr.	His 14.5 tackles for loss ranked second in C-USA.	Roshaad Byrd, Sr.
LB	Ronnie Thornton*	Jr.	Had 114 tackles to rank second on the team.	Jamie Collins, So.
LB	Korey Williams*	Jr.	Has recovered five fumbles in two seasons.	Hendrick Leverette, Sr.
LB	Martez Smith*	Sr.	Fierce tackler; had 82 stops in '09.	Jeremy Snowden, Jr.
CB	Deron Wilson	Fr.	Blessed with sprinter's speed.	Alex Smith, Fr.
CB	C.J. Bailey*	Sr.	Will be in his fourth season as a starter.	Marcal Robinson, So.
SS	Justin Wilson*	Sr.	Has eight career interceptions, 15 career PBU's.	Tre Maddox, Fr.
FS	Kendrick Presley	Jr.	Spent past two seasons as a capable backup.	Jerrion Johnson, Fr.
P	Peter Boehme*	So.	Booted 26 of 54 punts inside the 20.	Daniel Hrapmann, Jr.

*Returning Starter

The Golden Eagles ranked an uncharacteristic 80th nationally in total defense last season and were 109th in pass defense.

What should aid a potential turnaround — and what will make the defensive front even more imposing — will be the return of veteran end Roshaad Byrd. Byrd dislocated his ankle in practice midway through last season, but should be in the mix when the season starts. He started the team's first six games and had three tackles for loss before the injury.

At linebacker, Smith, Williams and Thornton are effective and punishing. Williams finished third in the league in sacks (7.5), fifth in tackles for loss (11) and sixth in total tackles (121). Thornton had 10 tackles for loss and 114 total tackles.

The replacements will come in the secondary at the spots vacated by Eddie Hicks and Andre Watson. Cornerback

C.J. Bailey, a three-year starter who has 26 career pass break-ups, is the all-conference candidate in the group.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Tracey Lampley is a special teams dream. He averaged 14.5 yards per punt return to rank sixth in the NCAA. He was 15th in the national rankings with a 27.6-yard average on kickoff returns. Lampley scored touchdowns last season four different ways: punt return, kickoff return, pass reception and a rush.

The Golden Eagles must improve the kicking game. Southern Miss missed 10 extra-point attempts, including one that cost it the East Division title. Danny Hrapmann has taken over those duties.

The punting game appears to be solid. It will be handled by sophomore Peter Boehme, who had only 14 of 54 punts returned.

— Phil Stukenborg

GOLDEN EAGLES RECRUITING 2010

NAME	Pos.	Ht. Wt.	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
ACOSTA, Corey	PK	5-10, 182	Memphis, TN	Christian Brothers
Rivals.com rated No. 17 kicker nationally... Converted 12 of 17 field goals and made 29 of 30 extra points attempted as a senior... Kicked one field goal of 49 yards.				
BOWEN, Cortez	LB	6-2, 218	Memphis, TN	Trezevant
Ranked No. 22 player in Tennessee by Rivals.com... Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State... As a senior, had 74 tackles, including nine quarterback sacks, and four fumbles recovered... Had 102 tackles, including 18 quarterback sacks, and two fumbles recovered as a junior.				
BRADLEY, Furious	ATH	5-8, 158	Gulfport	Harrison Central
Jackson Clarion-Ledger All-State... Had 937 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns as a senior... Had 19 receptions for 211 yards... Had 47 tackles (31 solo) and three interceptions... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				
BROWN, O.C.	OL	6-2, 319	Memphis, TN	Manassas
Rivals.com rated No. 11 offensive guard nationally and No. 6 player in Tennessee... Tennessee Football Coaches Association All-State.				
COTTON, Jacorius	ATH	5-11, 179	LaGrange, GA	Troup County
Team Offensive Most Valuable Player... Played offense and defense during career... As a senior, played mostly in the secondary.				
FAVOR, Arsenio	QB	6-2, 226	Montgomery, AL	Stanhope Elmore
All-County... Montgomery Quarterback Club Player of the Week... Completed 87 of 175 passes for 1,600 yards and 16 touchdowns as a junior... Scored six touchdowns rushing.				
FWLLER, David	OL	6-3, 289	Daphne, AL	Daphne
Alabama Sports Writers Association All-State... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				
HESTER, Jeremy	RB	5-7, 172	Panama City, FL	Arnold
Ranked No. 27 all-purpose back nationally by Rivals.com... As a senior, had 1,497 yards rushing and 17 touchdowns... Returned one kickoff for 94 yards and a touchdown... Had 2,305 yards rushing and 39 touchdowns as a junior.				
HOWZE, Alan	RB	6-1, 209	Ocean Springs	Ocean Springs
Biloxi Sun-Herald Top 30... Honorable mention All-South Mississippi in 2008... Had 868 yards on 158 carries and two touchdowns as a senior.				
HUNT, Reggie	ATH	5-9, 175	Robertsdale, AL	Copiah-Lincoln Community College
In 2009, had 18 tackles (eight solo), 16 passes broken up and returned one interception for touchdown at defensive back... As a high school junior, had 1,009 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns on 72 carries... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game in 2007.				
MAGEE, Josh	WR	5-10, 170	Hoover, AL	Hoover
All-State... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game... Dual-sport athlete expected to play infield for the baseball team.				

NAME	Pos.	Ht. Wt.	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
MCCULLUM, Dasman	DE	6-5, 230	Taylorsville	West Jones
Jackson Clarion-Ledger Mississippi Top 40... Mississippi Coaches Association All-State... All-Area... As a senior, had 45 tackles, including three quarterback sacks, one interception, four fumbles recovered and one fumble caused.				
MCNAIR, JR., Steve	WR	6-1, 195	Hattiesburg	Oak Grove
Area Player of the Year... Helped team to state championship game... Had 61 receptions for 709 yards and four touchdowns as a senior... Had 311 yards rushing on 66 carries and scored four touchdowns... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				
PENN, Justin	LB	6-1, 193	Bassfield	Bassfield
Jackson Clarion-Ledger All-Area... All-State... As a senior, had 74 tackles, including four quarterback sacks, four interceptions, two fumbles caused and two fumbles recovered... Helped team to state championship... Participated in Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				
PETERSON, Taylor	OL	6-4, 296	Auburn, AL	Auburn
Honorable mention All-Region in 2008... Starter in sophomore and junior seasons.				
REEDY, Seth	OL	6-4, 260	Piedmont, AL	Piedmont
Honorable mention All-Region in 2008... Two-year starter... As a senior, helped team to 13-2 season and state championship.				
SULLIVAN, Dominique	QB	6-3, 189	Taylorsville	Taylorsville
Rivals.com rated No. 40 pro-style quarterback nationally and No. 23 player in Mississippi... Two-time All-Area... Had 1,997 yards passing and 16 touchdowns as a senior... Had 386 yards rushing and five touchdowns... Participated in Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				
TRIPLETT, Markese	WR	6-4, 199	Louisville	Louisville
Ranked No. 57 wide receiver nationally and No. 12 player in Mississippi by Rivals.com... Jackson Clarion-Ledger All-State... As a senior, had 37 receptions for 633 yards and seven touchdowns... Had 55 tackles, including four quarterback sacks, and three interceptions... Participated in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				
WALTERS, Alexander	DB	5-10, 163	Northport, AL	Tuscaloosa County
Had 34 tackles, three passes broken up and one interception as a senior.				
WALTERS, Zeke	TE	6-2, 217	Birmingham, AL	Briarwood Christian
All-County... Team co-captain... As a senior linebacker, had 76 tackles (25 solo), including one quarterback sack, two quarterback pressures, two tackles for loss and one fumble recovered... Had six rushing touchdowns.				
WILSON, Anthony	DE	6-3, 215	Midfield, AL	Midfield
Ranked No. 26 defensive end nationally and No. 21 player in Alabama by Rivals.com.				
WOODYARD, Jamal	ATH	5-8, 200	Fairhope, AL	Fairhope
Honorable mention All-State... Had 384 yards rushing and six touchdowns on 32 carries in one game... Had 1,442 yards rushing as a junior... Participated in Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game.				

A LOOK AT THE GOLDEN EAGLES

RESULTS

7-6, 5-3

W	Alcorn State	52-0
W	UCF	26-19
W	Virginia	37-34
L	at Kansas	28-35
L	at UAB	17-30
L	at Louisville	23-25
W	Memphis	36-16
W	Tulane	43-6
L	at Houston	43-50
W	at Marshall	27-20
W	Tulsa	44-34
L	at East Carolina	20-25
New Orleans Bowl		
L	vs. Middle Tennessee State	32-42

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
M. Young	132	230	3	57.4	1861	16
A. Davis	108	156	2	69.2	1165	10

RECEIVING

	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
D. Brown	47	785	16.7	9	95
G. Baptiste	38	558	14.7	5	70
L. Banks	29	375	12.9	3	29

RUSHING

	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long
D. Fletcher	219	1015	4.6	8	26
T. Harrison	105	647	6.2	10	57
M. Young	72	294	4.1	1	36

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: K. Williams 121, R. Thornton 114, M. Smith 82
Tackles for loss: C. Law 14.5, T. Conner 12, K. Williams 11
Sacks: K. Williams 7.5, C. Law 7.5, T. Conner 5
Interceptions: E. Hicks 5, M. Smith 2, J. Wilson 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 2	at South Carolina	7-6
Sept. 11	PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	9-1
Sept. 17	KANSAS	5-7
Sept. 25	at Louisiana Tech	4-8
Oct. 2	MARSHALL	7-6
Oct. 9	EAST CAROLINA	9-5
Oct. 16	at Memphis	2-10
Oct. 30	UAB	5-7
Nov. 6	at Tulane	3-9
Nov. 13	at UCF	8-5
Nov. 20	HOUSTON	10-4
Nov. 27	at Tulsa	5-7



TULANE

GREEN WAVE

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dan Dodd

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Steve Stanard

STADIUM: Louisiana Superdome 69,703

AT A GLANCE

2009

3-9 overall, 1-7 C-USA (6th, West)

COACH

Bob Toledo — At Tulane: 9-27, 3 years;
overall: 87-95, 16 years

RETURNING STARTERS

10; 7 offense, 3 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB Ryan Griffin, WR D.J. Banks, LB Trent Mackey, FS Shakiel Smith, C Andrew Nierman

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Tulane has speed and depth — something it hasn't had in the past three seasons. The offensive line is steady, as is quarterback Ryan Griffin, but a move to a spread-style offense and a new cast of running backs are wildcards. The defense adds several new starters but has more talent than it has had in recent memory.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Special teams haunted the Green Wave in 2009. With an unproven kicker and punter, combined with more young players on protection, it looks like trouble again.

KEY LOSSES

RB Andre' Anderson, WR Jeremy Williams, SS Chinonso Echebelem, LB Travis Burks, DE Logan Kelley, DE Adam Kwentua

OVERVIEW

Tulane is trying to claw out of the bottom of the Conference USA standings, but there is still a long way to go. The shift in offense is a plus and new coaching on defense should help the problems against the run. This team is better than last year, but improving enough for a bowl doesn't seem likely.

Even With Key Pieces Missing, Tulane Giddy About Season

Bob Toledo, at 64 years old, didn't exactly skip around the spring practice field, but the Tulane head coach couldn't mask his optimism for the upcoming season either.

It can be a little confounding for the outsider.

Tulane lost its two marquee skill players on offense and its leading tackler from a 3-9 2009. Receiver Jeremy Williams and running back Andre' Anderson both accrued more than 1,000 yards in their categories and signed NFL contracts this spring. Safety Chinonso Echebelem, who graduated, averaged 8.45 tackles a game.

The Green Wave won't have their steady production, but that hasn't darkened Toledo's mood.

"We have finally got some quality depth," Toledo said. "There's going to be a lot of competition. ... The guys that don't show us anything in the spring, in the fall those freshmen will move in."

The brightest spot is the return of quarterback Ryan Griffin. For the first time in Toledo's era at Tulane, the Green Wave headed out of spring with the same quarterback who finished the previous season.

Griffin started his first game in October as a redshirt freshman. He completed 141 of 222 passes for 1,382 yards and nine touchdowns in nine games. Griffin threw six interceptions and exited the season as the team's leader in total yards (1,323 after rushing losses).

"He's done a nice job," Toledo said after spring drills.

And Griffin's job should get easier now that Toledo's West Coast scheme has verbalized.

The tweaked offense plays to Tulane's

2010 strengths — an accurate passer with a deep, talented receiving corp.

Though there is much work to be done, Tulane said this could be the season it vaults from Conference USA cellar dweller to a bowl-eligible team.

"The progress has been good," Toledo said.

"(The players say) the attitude is really good in the locker room — that's where a lot of things happen and that's where coaches aren't mingling all the time, but I tell you all the players seem to think that things are going really well."

OFFENSE

Tulane lost wideout Jeremy Williams but returns much of the offensive line and added an influx of new receivers, the sum of which might strengthen the new offense, quarterback Ryan Griffin said.

"It's depth all around, and you've got trust in everyone," Griffin said.

"We just kind of did a study of what we've done so far, and between the three main receivers it's (been an even distribution) all spring. So it's spread out. It's as spread out as you can get, and if you can get all three and then the tight end involved, then it's really tough to cover.

"You look at these offenses that have one or two receivers, kind of like what we had last season with Jeremy, you key on one and that's about it. You stop him, you stop the offense. But our depth all around and the amount of playmakers we have all around makes us much more dangerous."

The leading returning receiver is Casey Robottom, who had 50 receptions for 584 yards.

The Green Wave lost fullback Antoine

Ryan Griffin

Scouting Report: Offense

2009 stats: 105.33 ypg rushing (12th in C-USA/106th NCAA), 207.17 passing (9th/74th), 312.50 total offense (11th/105th), 16.08 ppg (12th/115th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Ryan Griffin*	So.	Accurate passer who passed for 1,382 yards.	Kevin Moore, Sr.
RB	Albert Williams	Jr.	New starter with only 7 touches last season.	J.T. McDonald, Jr.
WR	Casey Robottom*	Sr.	Highest yielding returning receiver (584 yds).	Alan Mitchell, Sr.
WR	Ryan Grant	So.	New starter with lots of talent, little experience.	Joe Kemp, Jr.
WR	D.J. Banks	So.	Exciting skill player who was a wildcat last year.	Wilson Van Hooser, Fr.
TE	Cody Sparks	Sr.	Won the job in spring ball.	Tyler Helm, Sr.*
LT	Pete Hendrickson*	Sr.	Hulking 6-8 tackle who is looking to improve.	Harris Howard, Jr.
LG	Harris Howard*	Jr.	Has proven to be a solid utility lineman.	Hunter Howden, So.
C	Andrew Nierman*	Sr.	Heart and soul of line, four-year starter.	Joey Ray, Sr.
RG	Zach Morgan*	So.	Already started a full year; on the rise.	Rio Mares, Fr.
RT	Eric Jones	So.	First-year starter faces a big learning curve.	L.J. Abrams, So.
K	Ryan Rome	Fr.	Incoming players will challenge his spot.	Cairo Santos, Fr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

2009 stats: 204.83 ypg rushing (11th in C-USA/109th NCAA), 218.00 passing (1st/57th), 422.83 total defense (7th/102nd), 36.67 ppg (11th/115th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Dezman Moses	Jr.	Transfer already upgrading pass rush.	Devin Williams, Fr.
DT	Justin Adams	Sr.	New starter who is vocal presence on line.	Shane Delery, So.
NT	Oscar Ponce de Leon	Jr.	Coming back from broken ankle.	Cedric Wilson, Jr.
DE	Austen Jacks	So.	Played MLB last year; back at home position.	Josh Smith, Sr.
LB	Trent Mackey	So.	Duke transfer already impacting unit.	Darryl Farley, So.
LB	Darryl Farley	So.	Coming off two injuries, back to speed.	Kristofar Rhymes, Jr.
DB.	Ryan Travis	So.	Speedy young nickel back with nose for ball.	Taylor Echols, Jr.
CB	Phillip Davis*	Jr.	Returning interception leader with two.	Kendrick Washington, Fr.
CB	Alex Lauricella	So.	Played in lots of spots last season.	Kendrell Washington, Fr.
SS	Alex Wacha*	Sr.	Had 77 tackles last season, returning leader.	Taylor Echols, Jr.
FS	Shakiel Smith*	So.	71 tackles as a freshman utility player last year.	Devon Walker, So.
P	Ryan Rome	Fr.	Will face competition from incoming frosh.	Jonathan Ginsburgh, Fr.

*Returning Starter

Duplessis before spring to an undisclosed university matter. Toledo said Duplessis won't return, and that forced Toledo's hand in changing the offense. Coordinator Dan Dodd said the absence of a fullback expands the role of the slot receiver.

"What happens is the No. 2 receiver, the inside slot receiver, turns into the fullback, so that's all it is," Dodd said.

"He pretty much takes over the fullback role in the run game, and obviously in the pass game it gives you the added advantage of having a speedy guy out there."

Just don't use the "s" word around Tulane.

"We don't say it; we spell s-p-r-e-a-d," Dodd said. "We'll call it 'Gulf Coast offense.'"

DEFENSE

Tulane's defense did not undergo major changes from its 4-3 base. The staff,

on the other hand, has been shaken up with some new coaches. Tom Hayes, a former NFL assistant, takes over the secondary. Former Nebraska and pro linebacker Doug Colman leads the linebacker unit.

Defensive coordinator Steve Stanard feels good about the improvements. Last season, injuries and a shallow depth chart forced players into unnatural positions and contributed to a total defense ranked 102nd nationally.

Two experienced players — linebacker Trent Mackey and defensive end Dezman Moses — sat on the sidelines in 2009 because of NCAA transfer rules, but they are on the field and will be starting in the fall.

Mackey, a sophomore who began his career at Duke, made eight tackles in the spring game and already is one of the defensive leaders. Moses, a left defensive

end who played 15 games at Iowa, led the team with two sacks in the spring game.

The return of the team's interception leader, cornerback Phillip Davis, bulks up a secondary that led Conference USA in pass defense (218.0 yards allowed per game).

With the existing talent and a host of hybrid linebacker-safety and linebacker-lineman types coming in, the 2010 product should prove to be an upgrade.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Much is new in this department with a new coordinator — Doug Lichtenberger, who is also the tight ends coach — and a new kicker/punter in redshirt freshman Ryan Rome.

The kick and punt returners — D.J. Banks and Casey Robottom — are experienced.

— Tammy Nunez

**UAB**

BLAZERS

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kim Helton**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** Eric Schumann**STADIUM:** Legion Field, 71,594

AT A GLANCE

2009

5-7, 4-4 C-USA (T-4th, East)

COACH

Neil Callaway — At UAB and overall: 11-25, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS

17; 7 offense, 8 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

TE Jeffery Anderson, WR Frantrell Forrest, OT Matt McCants, DT Elliott Henigan, LB Lamanski Ware, CB Terrell Springs, DT D.J. Reese

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The offense looks strong again. Four out of five starting offensive linemen are back and that bodes well for a passing game that also boasts the return of all but one receiver.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Somebody has to replace quarterback Joe Webb, the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year, which won't be easy. But to contend, UAB must do something about the defense, which has been an ongoing problem.

KEY LOSSES

QB Joe Webb, C Jake Seitz, WR Sylvester Mencer, RB Jim Mitchell, RB Rashaud Slaughter, TE Zach Langford

OVERVIEW

The Blazers were one game away from becoming bowl eligible after winning three of the last five, but once again a slow start was too much to overcome. With road games at Tennessee and Mississippi State in the first seven games of the season, it will be essential to get off to a good start if UAB is to go bowling.

No Webb, but Blazers Still Inching Closer to Goals

The UAB Blazers open each season with the goals of playing for the conference championship and playing in a bowl game. So far, that hasn't happened. But heading into his fourth season, coach Neil Callaway has to be pleased with the direction of his program.

Under Callaway, the Blazers have gone from two wins, to four wins to five wins. It's progress that had to be made to get the program back to where it wants to be — competing for conference championships and bowl games.

"The first year we had 63 scholarship players," said Callaway.

"The next year we were at 68 and last year we had 73. This year, I don't know if we will hit 85, but we will be at 83, 84 or maybe we will hit 85, but we will be at a full capacity numbers-wise. When you think about the difference between 63 and 85, that's an offense and a defense in itself.

"So we've made a lot of progress. Our coaching staff has done a great job of recruiting and getting the right people in here. I'm very pleased with the effort of our staff."

Last season the Blazers were playing meaningful conference games with a chance at winning the East Division deep into November for the first time since 2004, which was the last — and only — time UAB played in a bowl game.

"I want to concentrate on building our program. I do want to compete against the teams in Conference USA — the Southern Misses, East Carolinas, Memphis and Central Floridas. That's who we have to compete against to build this program," said Callaway.

OFFENSE

When you have to replace Conference

USA's Offensive Player of the Year in Joe Webb, the quarterback who accounted for 72.9 percent of your offense and 32 touchdowns, you might think the cupboard is bare.

You would be wrong.

The Blazers return seven starters on offense — four on the line, two wide receivers and a tight end. Two running backs have starting experience and there's a quarterback who was the team's second leading rusher behind Webb. UAB has a chance to be explosive.

Sophomore quarterback David Isabelle got valuable experience last season and brings the same type of threat to the offense as Webb. Isabelle ran for 288 yards with an eye-popping 9.0 yards per carry average on 32 carries. Bryan Ellis, Joe Bento and Jonathan Perry all had moments during the spring and will be in the quarterback battle when fall camp opens.

"I do like the progress our quarterbacks have made," Callaway said. "I think they are capable."

Callaway expects to be better at running back with Justin Brooks and Daniel Borne back. The running game got a boost in the spring from junior college transfer Pat Shed, who played at East Mississippi Community College.

"He's really brought a lot of juice to the offense," Callaway said of the 5-9, 175-pound Starkville, Miss., native. "He makes people miss. He runs north and south. He's got great quickness, good explosion. He sees extremely well and can fit in the seams and pop the big play."

Frantrell Forrest and Jeffery Anderson, the top two receivers from last season, are back. Four of the top five receivers return.

The line brings back starters Greg Bulls and Caleb Thomas at the guards, with

Frantrell Forrest

Scouting Report: Offense

2009 stats: 229.9 ypg rushing (1st in C-USA/7th in NCAA), 196.0 passing (11th/83rd), 425.9 total offense (3rd/22nd), 27.8 points per game (6th/59th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	David Isabelle	So.	Got just enough playing time to get a leg up.	Bryan Ellis, Jr.
RB	Pat Shed	Jr.	Opened eyes with outstanding spring.	J. Brooks, Sr./D. Borne, Sr.
WR	Frantrell Forrest*	Sr.	Led team with 34 catches for 558 yards.	Patrick Hearn, So.
WR	Nick Adams	Jr.	His 77-yard reception was longest of year.	Mike Jones, Sr.
WR	Roddell Carter*	Sr.	His 42-yard catch was second longest of year.	Mario Wright, Sr.
TE	Jeffery Anderson*	Sr.	Considered perhaps best TE in C-USA.	Joseph Waller, Sr.
LT	Matt McCants*	Jr.	Will become a leader on offensive line.	Greg Calhoun, Jr.
LG	Greg Calhoun*	Jr.	Won starting job in the spring.	Greg Bulls, Sr.*
C	Darion Smith	Jr.	Has to replace four-year starter Jake Seitz.	Adam Arthur, Jr.
RG	Caleb Thomas*	Jr.	Made move from center in the spring.	Logan Creel, Sr.
RT	Chris Hubbard	So.	Played in eight games as true freshman.	Terence Edge, Jr.
K	Josh Zahn*	Fr.	Led team in scoring with 77 points.	Trey Ragland, Jr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

2009 stats: 143.7 ypg rushing (5th in C-USA/60th in NCAA), 311.5 passing (12th/120th), 455.2 total defense (10th/114th), 32.3 points per game (8th/102nd)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	Bryant Turner	Sr.	11 of 23 tackles were for losses, six were sacks.	Tim Davis, Sr.*
DT	D.J. Reese	Sr.	Made 24 tackles in 11 games.	David DeCordova, Sr.*
DT	Elliott Henigan*	Jr.	Was second on team in TFL (9.5) and sacks (4).	Justin Wells, Sr.
DE	Derek Slaughter	Sr.	Had 33 tackles, 6.5 TFL and 3.5 sacks.	Andrew Mahan, Fr.
LB	Darrion Wilson	Sr.	Had two sacks last season; had a strong spring.	Caleb Dyck, Sr.
LB	Marvin Burdette	So.	Noted for his strong run-stopping ability.	Daniel White, So.*
LB	Lamanski Ware*	Jr.	Was second on the team with 71 tackles.	Keon Harris, Sr.
CB	Marquis Coleman	Jr.	Tied for team lead with three interceptions.	T.J. Ballou, Jr.
CB	Terrell Springs*	Jr.	Had 68 tackles and 10 passes broken up.	Ugonna Amarikawa, Jr.
SS	Jamie Bender	Jr.	Won starting job with impressive spring.	Hiram Atwater, Sr.*
FS	Chase Daniel*	Jr.	Had three INTs and 30 tackles before injury.	Ferson Stafford, Jr.
P	Trey Ragland*	Jr.	Averaged 42.8 yards on 55 punts last season.	Josh Zahn, Fr.

*Returning Starter

Matt McCants and Greg Calhoun back at the tackle spots. Chris Hubbard appeared to win a starting tackle job in the spring, moving Calhoun to a guard position ahead of Bulls.

The biggest hole on the line is at center where Jake Seitz, who started 48 consecutive games, is gone. Darion Smith worked as the No. 1 center in the spring, but there could be challengers arriving in the fall.

Anderson returns at tight end and should contend for all-conference honors at that position.

DEFENSE

UAB finished last nationally in pass defense and 114th in total defense. To say the defense needs propping up is an understatement. Injuries to key players and overall lack of experience were big parts of the problem. The experience part should be OK with eight starters back.

"The three years I've been here we've not been very good on defense, and we know that," Callaway said.

"For the first time, I think we've got a chance to be a pretty good defense. We've got a lot of juniors and seniors who have been playing since they were freshmen. They've grown up and matured."

Bryant Turner and Derek Slaughter are the ends that will need to step up the pass rush, while D.J. Reese and Elliott Henigan are the tackles.

The secondary was hurt last year when safety Chase Daniel was injured early and missed more than seven games. But Daniel is back healthy and will team with junior college transfer Jamie Bender, who was the hit of the spring, to give the Blazers an upgrade at the safety spots.

Marquis Coleman and Terrell Springs are the corners, Darrion Wilson, Lamanski Ware and Marvin Burdette will likely

man the linebacker positions. Hiram Atwater, last year's leading tackler, missed the spring but should return in the fall.

SPECIAL TEAMS

UAB returns sophomore place-kicker Josh Zahn and junior punter Trey Ragland along with long snapper Taylor Klein. Zahn was 14 of 21 on field goals with his longest a 51-yarder against Southern Miss. He was inconsistent in the second half of the season though, hitting only four of his final nine attempts.

Ragland was outstanding, averaging 42.8 yards on 55 punts, including 20 inside the 20-yard line with only five touchbacks. Zahn will be the primary kickoff man with Ragland in reserve if needed.

Frantrell Forrest will be the main return specialist, although nobody on the roster returned any punts last season.

— Ben Cook



UCF | KNIGHTS

C-USA rank: 2

Record: 8-5

C-USA record: 6-2 (2nd, East)

Stadium: Bright House Networks Stadium (45,301)

By Paul Borden



Photo by Chris Livingston

Bruce Miller

"It's very big for me."

— Junior Rob Calabrese, on being named the starting quarterback coming out of spring practice

KNIGHTS at a GLANCE

COACH: George O'Leary — At UCF: 34-41, 6 years

OVERALL: 86-74, 13 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Charlie Taaffe

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dave Huxtable

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2007

LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2008

RETURNING STARTERS: 17; 8 offense, 7 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Rob Calabrese, TB Brynn Harvey, RT Jah Reid, WR Kamar Aiken, WR A.J. Guyton, DE Bruce Miller, LB Derrick Hallman, CB Josh Robinson

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The offensive line is set with the return of four starters, including Reid, an all-conference selection. The wide receiver corps is deep. Miller is an All-America candidate up front on defense. The secondary was rebuilt last year and welcomes back fifth-year senior Emery Allen, injured in 2009.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Calabrese has been up and down in the last two years. True freshman Jeffrey Godfrey and Stanford transfer L.D. Crow back him up. Both starting tackles are gone on defense. Three freshmen, including January enrollee E.J. Dunston, are listed on the two-deep.

OFFENSE

Rob Calabrese has shown he can win the starting job at quarterback. His problem is hanging onto it.

Calabrese, a junior, has made a handful of starts in the past two years but has yet to end a season as the No. 1 man. But he held off a challenge from freshman Jeffrey Godfrey in the spring and will go into fall camp atop the depth chart.

The offense returns eight starters, but the Knights may be without one of them when they open Sept. 4 against South Dakota. Junior running

back Brynn Harvey (1,109 yards rushing in 2009) tweaked a knee in the spring and could miss some early games.

Moving from fullback to take his place is sophomore Brendan Kelly, who at 231 pounds is a strong runner between the tackles.

The Knights look set at wide receiver with the return of junior A.J. Guyton (a team-high 44 receptions) and senior Kamar Aiken (a team-best 610 yards receiving). Sophomore Quincy McDuffie had a great spring.

Senior Jah Reid was a first-team all-conference tackle in 2009 and heads a cast of four returning starters on the line. Guard Theo Goins was on the league's All-Freshman team. The lone newcomer is sophomore center Jordan Rae, who emerged ahead of junior Zac Norris in the spring.

DEFENSE

With seven returning starters from a unit that ranked fourth nationally against the run, UCF has big hopes for a defense led by senior end Bruce Miller.

Miller was Conference USA's Defensive Player of the Year in 2009, and his 27 career sacks lead all returning active players nationally.

Senior David Williams is a returning starter at the other end, but the tackle spots feature new starters in Wes Tunuufi Sauvao and true freshman E.J. Dunston, who enrolled early to take part in the spring. Redshirt freshmen Victor Gray and Frankie Davis are backups.

Two seniors who sat out 2009 because of injuries return to bolster the unit.

Chance Henderson moves in at middle line-backer. He's flanked by returning senior starters Derrick Hallman and Lawrence Young, and Emery Allen emerged ahead of returning starter Justin Boddie at a cornerback spot.

Other returning starters in the secondary are cornerback Josh Robinson (six interceptions) and safety Kemal Ishmael.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Both specialists return. Nick Cattoi hit on 14 of 20 field goals, including 5 of 7 from beyond 40 yards. Punter Blake Clingan averaged only 37.1 yards last year, down three yards from 2008, but 24 of 65 attempts were downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Guyton (10.8 on punts) and McDuffie (24.2 on kickoffs) are back in the return game.

OVERVIEW

UCF's defense, which ranked No. 1 in Conference USA in 2009, should assure the Knights of a return bowl trip. But to make a big move up, the Knights are going to have to get consistent play at quarterback.

TOP NEWCOMER

DT E.J. Dunston: A true freshman who enrolled in January to take part in spring practice, Dunston worked his way to the first unit despite sustaining an ankle injury early in the spring. He had five sacks as a senior at Edgewater High in Eatonville, Fla.

OFFENSE

QB	4	Rob Calabrese	6-2	220	Jr.
TB	34	Brynn Harvey*	6-1	207	Jr.
FB	32	Billy Giovanetti	5-11	230	So.
WR	81	Kamar Aiken*	6-2	218	Sr.
WR	14	A.J. Guyton*	5-11	194	Jr.
TE	88	Adam Nissley*	6-6	262	Jr.
LT	77	Nick Pleschel*	6-7	299	Jr.
LG	65	Cliff McCray*	6-2	316	Sr.
C	73	Jordan Rae	6-2	264	So.
RG	68	Theo Goins*	6-4	322	So.
RT	76	Jah Reid*	6-7	326	Sr.

DEFENSE

LE	68	David Williams*	6-2	235	Sr.
LT	94	Wes Tunuufi Sauvao	6-3	300	Sr.
RT	95	E.J. Dunston	6-2	308	Fr.
RE	49	Bruce Miller*	6-2	255	Sr.
LB	38	Derrick Hallman*	6-0	218	Sr.
LB	50	Chance Henderson	6-1	245	Sr.
LB	57	Lawrence Young*	6-0	220	Sr.
CB	20	Josh Robinson*	5-10	186	So.
CB	22	Emery Allen*	5-9	183	Sr.
SS	21	Darin Baldwin	5-11	207	Sr.
FS	18	Kemal Ishmael*	5-11	194	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	16	Nick Cattoi*	6-5	210	Jr.
P	41	Blake Clingan*	6-3	233	Sr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	SOUTH DAKOTA
Sept. 11	NC STATE
Sept. 18	at Buffalo
Sept. 25	at Kansas State
Oct. 6	UAB
Oct. 13	at Marshall
Oct. 23	RICE
Oct. 30	EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 5	at Houston
Nov. 13	SOUTHERN MISS
Nov. 20	at Tulane
Nov. 27	at Memphis

2009 RESULTS

W	Samford	28-24
L	at Southern Miss	19-26
W	Buffalo	23-17
L	at East Carolina	14-19
W	Memphis	32-14
L	Miami (Fla.)	7-27
W	at Rice	49-7
W	Marshall	21-20
L	at Texas	3-35
W	Houston	37-32
W	Tulane	49-0
W	at UAB	34-27
St. Petersburg Bowl		
L	vs. Rutgers	24-45

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	26.2	67
Rushing	130.5	82
Passing	210.3	69
Total	340.9	87
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.5	42
Rushing	82.8	4
Passing	267.8	113
Total	350.5	48
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+ 8	+ 0.62	17

**LOUISVILLE**

CARDINALS

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Sanford**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Vance Bedford****STADIUM: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium: 42,000**

AT A GLANCE

2009

4-8 overall, 1-6 Big East (T-7th)

COACH

Charlie Strong — At Louisville: 1st year;
overall: 0-1 as interim head coach at Florida

RETURNING STARTERS

16; 9 offense, 6 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

RB Victor Anderson, WR Doug Beaumont,
WR Josh Chichester, QB Adam Froman,
C Mario Benavides, LB Brandon Heath,
CB Johnny Patrick, LB Antwon Canady

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Louisville has a veteran offensive line and good experience and depth at running back, led by Anderson. The key will be to keep him and Bilal Powell healthy. Froman needs to develop confidence as the passing game takes shape and tries to be more productive in the spread.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Most of the issues are on defense, where Louisville lost its top four tacklers from an ineffective unit. Strong will look to find combinations on his defensive line, which was easily the biggest problem a year ago. Louisville lacked any sort of physicality and gave up 23 rushing touchdowns. Four opponents registered more than 200 yards rushing.

KEY LOSSES

WR Trent Guy, WR Scott Long, LB Jon Dempsey, LB Chris Campa, S Richard Raglin, S Chaz Thompson

OVERVIEW

Strong has lots of work in front of him in re-teaching fundamentals and developing depth. It may take two more recruiting classes before the Cardinals will be able to vie for the top spot in the Big East. Six wins and a middle of the conference finish would probably garner a bowl bid, which would be an excellent springboard into the new era.

Next step for Louisville is Going Back to Basics

Enough as Louisville fell from grace in going 15-21 in three years under Steve Kragthorpe. Jurich made a splash by luring Florida defensive coordinator Charlie Strong to become the 21st head coach in school history.

Strong, long overdue for a head coaching position after 27 years as an assistant, brings impeccable credentials to the River City after playing a key role on Urban Meyer's coaching staff. He helped lead the Gators to two national championships in the past four years as the defensive coordinator.

Strong will be challenged immediately in rebuilding a team that was lethargic on both sides of the ball for the last three seasons. The talent level and depth has dissipated immensely since Bobby Petrino's successful 41-9 mark from 2003-06.

"What we try to do is build a team concept here," Strong said. "There has been no resistance, no resentment. Guys have just come out to work each day."

Unlike many programs that hit a swoon, Strong has seen lots of optimism and the building blocks of a winning attitude early in his tenure.

"The way that the players have worked, they want to win," Strong said. "Sometimes you have to raise your voice a little, but the overall attitude of this football team is really good."

Strong and his staff are stressing fundamentals, perhaps even more at this point than most coaches have to do while in transition.

"We have a slogan — 'take another step' — and it is really important to get some fundamentals established and it is really critical for us to build fundamentals," Strong said.

OFFENSE

Louisville's floundering offense was

111th in the nation last season in points per game, so new coordinator Mike Sanford will implement a spread attack to try to take advantage of the skills of senior quarterback Adam Froman.

Froman threw only six touchdown passes against five interceptions last season as he split time with Justin Burke, who is still challenging for the job with Will Stein and Luke Woodley.

Doug Beaumont and Josh Chichester return as key cogs in a thin receiving corps. Beaumont was second in receptions and receiving yards last season while Chichester, at 6-8, should be a formidable possession receiver when the Cardinals need to get a first down.

At tight end, Cameron Graham could be consistently productive as he can shed tacklers and provide yardage after the catch.

In the backfield, Victor Anderson returns from injury. He missed four of the Cardinals' last five games, yet still led Louisville in rushing with 473 yards. Anderson had the Cardinals' lone 100-yard rushing outing as he ran for 110 against Kentucky.

Bilal Powell is an explosive runner who is looking to rebound from a tough ending to the season in '09. Redshirt freshman Jeremy Wright is a talented running back who could also figure in the mix after Darius Ashley was shifted to defense.

Louisville's line returns all five starters, led by center Mario Benavides, who started all 12 games last season as a redshirt freshman. This should be a cohesive unit that will be key in running Sanford's version of the spread.

It will be interesting to see how many of Strong's newcomers immediately provide help. He was able to bring in Miami Northwestern High product Michael Harris, known for his great hands and

Victor Anderson

route-running ability.

DEFENSE

Strong, noted for his prowess as a defensive coordinator, will try to improve a unit that gave up 371 yards and 26.2 points per game last season. In putting together a first-class staff, one of his initial hires was 17-year coaching veteran Vance Bedford, the Florida cornerbacks coach for the past two seasons, as his defensive coordinator.

With only four starters returning, jobs are up for grabs. Greg Scruggs and Malcolm Tatum have the most experience on the defensive line. Scruggs could move inside to tackle to shore up the depth on the front and Tatum and William Savoy could be the starters at both ends.

Newcomer De'Antre Rhodes, a four-star defensive tackle, could figure in the Cardinals' line scheme. Rhodes (6-3, 285) was ranked by Rivals.com as the No. 3 prep school defensive tackle in

Scouting Report: Offense

2009 stats: 125.2 ypg rushing (8th in Big East/89th in NCAA), 208.9 passing (4th/71st), 334.1 total offense (6th/91st), 18.1 points per game (8th/111th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	Adam Froman*	Sr.	Posted a 2-5 record as Cardinals starter in '09.	Justin Burke, Sr.
RB	Victor Anderson*	Jr.	Injury-riddled in '09; no spring contact.	Bilal Powell, Sr.
WR	Jahmal Lawson	So.	Converted QB a big target.	Stephon Ball, Jr.
WR	Doug Beaumont*	Sr.	Has a pass reception in 24 straight games.	Troy Pasceley, Sr.
WR	Josh Chichester	So.	At 6-8, the ultimate possession receiver.	Damian Copeland, Fr.
TE	Cameron Graham*	Jr.	Six starts in 12 games last season.	Pete Nohta, Sr.
LT	Greg Tomczyk*	Sr.	Key in protection as Cards gave up 37 sacks.	Byron Stingily, Sr.
LG	Joe Evinger*	Sr.	Had an injury-plagued '09 campaign.	Kamran Joyer, Fr.
C	Mario Benavides*	So.	Started 12 games as a redshirt freshman.	Alex Kupper, So.
RG	Mark Wetterer*	Sr.	Played in 11 of 12 games a year ago.	Conrad Thomas, Sr.
RT	Jeff Adams*	Sr.	Stalwart for the Cards; has started 24 straight.	Ryan Kessling, Jr.
K	Chris Philpott*	Jr.	Went 5 for 5 on FGs; hit three from 30-39 yard.	Jon Payne, Sr.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

2009 stats: 165.0 ypg rushing (8th in Big East/84th NCAA), 206.0 passing (3rd/42nd), 371.1 total defense (7th/65th), 26.2 points per game (7th/65th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	William Savoy*	Jr.	His five sacks were second on the team in '09.	Malcolm Mitchell, Fr.
DT	Greg Scruggs*	Jr.	Creates a definite presence in opponents' backfields.	Roy Philon, Fr.
DT	Tim High	Sr.	UNLV transfer who has climbed depth chart.	Randy Salmon, So.
DE	Malcolm Tatum*	Sr.	Improved offseason gives him inside shot.	Patrick Grant, Jr.
LB	Dexter Heyman	Jr.	Moves to linebacker after playing on the line in '09.	Daniel Brown, So.
LB	Antwon Canady*	Sr.	Season-high eight tackles vs. Southern Miss.	Mike Privott, Fr.
LB	Brandon Heath*	Sr.	Increased size makes him a major threat.	Horace Miller, So.
CB	Johnny Patrick*	Sr.	Very active at his position as he was fifth in tackles.	Zed Evans, Fr.
CB	Darius Ashley	So.	Lack of depth necessitates move from running back.	Preston Pace, Jr.
SS	Terence Simien	Jr.	Kidney issue sidelined him for season in game two.	Champ Lee, Fr.
FS	Shenard Holton	So.	Immediate contributor in sketchy secondary in '09.	Hakeem Smith, Fr.
P	Jon Payne	Sr.	Expected to improve on club's 40.5 yards per boot.	Josh Bleser, Jr.

*Returning Starter

the nation.

Strong could work with defensive line combinations throughout August as he did in the spring, based on the idea that Louisville is thin on the D-line. Opponents gashed the front for 165 yards rushing per game last year. The Cards ended the season by allowing South Florida and Rutgers to combine for 473 yards on the ground in the two losses.

Brandon Heath and Antwon Canady are a pair of returning seniors at the linebacker spots. The secondary will see lots of competition as cornerback Johnny Patrick is the lone returning starter.

Patrick, Louisville's leading returning tackler, had 53 stops a year ago. Heath, who had 48, moved from safety to linebacker last season and has increased his size in the offseason to solidify the move.

Strong moved running back Darius Ashley, the second leading rusher a year ago, to cornerback to shore up a thin

secondary. Redshirt freshman Hakeem Smith proved to be a playmaker in spring practice and could vie for a starting spot in the defensive backfield as well.

The Cardinals picked off only 10 passes last season, which was due, in part, to a sporadic pass rush that netted only 23 sacks.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Louisville should benefit from the accuracy of kicker Chris Philpott, who has proven to have a powerful leg. He was 5 for 5 last season and made a 56-yard field goal in a live game situation this spring.

Punter Jon Payne will try to upgrade the position; Corey Goettesch netted only 40.5 yards per punt a year ago.

Positions on the return units are up for grabs. Victor Anderson, Johnny Patrick and Jacques Caldwell could fill those spots.

— Ken Cross

CARDINALS RECRUITING 2010

NAME	Pos.	Ht. Wt.	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
ACOSTA, Chris	OL	6-3, 262	Miami, FL	Hialeah
As a junior, had almost 100 pancake blocks... Had 15 tackles and two quarterback sacks... Member of track and wrestling teams.				
BELLAMY, Josh	WR	6-0, 205	St. Petersburg, FL	Butte Community College
All-California Region in 2008... Had 38 receptions for 705 yards and eight touchdowns... Totaled 80 receptions for 1,307 yards and 17 touchdowns in two seasons.				
BROOKS, Jamaile	OL	6-4, 300	Miami, FL	Palmetto
Miami-Herald rated among top five defensive linemen in Miami-Dade... Played every position on the line.				
BROWN, Dominique	QB	6-2, 215	Cincinnati, OH	Winton Woods
Ranked No. 20 dual-threat quarterback nationally and No. 10 player in Ohio by Rivals.com... Cincinnati Offensive Player of the Year... Three-year starter... Had 4,685 career rushing yards and 64 touchdowns... Had 1,691 career passing yards and 15 touchdowns... As a senior, had 1,998 yards rushing and 32 touchdowns... Had 723 yards passing... Scored four rushing touchdowns in state championship game.				
BROWN, Preston	LB	6-2, 232	Cincinnati, OH	Northwest
Rivals.com rated No. 37 player in Ohio... As a senior, had 143 carries for 973 yards and 12 touchdowns... Had 31 tackles.				
BUTLER, B.J.	OLB	6-1, 254	Kissimmee, FL	Osceola
Ranked No. 27 defensive end nationally and No. 50 player in Florida by Rivals.com... Had more than 500 yards passing and 10 touchdowns as a junior quarterback.				
COLEMAN, Lacy	DE	6-4, 223	Tyrone, GA	Sandy Creek
Atlanta Journal-Constitution All-State... As a senior, made 15 tackles for loss... Helped team to state championship.				
DAVIS, Jarrett	WR	5-10, 164	College Park, GA	Sandy Creek
Had 39 receptions for 789 yards and six touchdowns as a senior... Helped team to state championship game where he had five receptions for 182 yards.				
DIXON, Tyon	LB	6-0, 190	Cincinnati, OH	Colerain
ESPN.com rated No. 88 outside linebacker nationally... As a junior, had 35 solo tackles and 28 assists.				
DOMINGUEZ, Kai	WR	6-1, 175	Montvale, NJ	St. Joseph's Regional
Ranked No. 1 preseason wide receiver in New Jersey by Star-Ledger... Had 45 receptions for 800 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior... Had 28 tackles and caused one fumble... Member of baseball and basketball teams.				

NAME	Pos.	Ht. Wt.	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
DUNN, Brandon	DL	6-3, 268	Louisville	Pleasure Ridge Park
Two-time All-District... Three-year starter... Three-time team captain... As a senior, had 65 tackles (30 solo), including 16 quarterback sacks... Had 50 tackles, including 16 quarterback sacks as a junior.				
HARRIS, Michael	WR	6-0, 187	Miami, FL	Northwestern
Ranked No. 21 player in Florida by Rivals.com... SunStateFootball.com rated No. 28 player in Florida... Had seven touchdown receptions as a senior.				
HOGAN, Kamal	RB	5-11, 198	Montvale, NJ	St. Joseph's Regional
Rivals.com rated No. 32 running back nationally and No. 6 player in New Jersey... Had five 100-yard rushing games... As a senior, had 950 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns... Scored four receiving touchdowns.				
LAMB, Corvin	RB	5-11, 198	Miami, FL	Northwestern
Ranked No. 65 running back nationally and No. 97 player in Florida by Rivals.com... Had 912 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns as a senior... National AAU 100- and 200-meter champion.				
PASCHAL, Jordan	CB	5-9, 172	Trotwood, OH	Trotwood-Madison
All-Southwest District... Three-year starter... Two-time team captain... Had 266 career tackles and eight interceptions... As a senior, had 102 tackles and two interceptions... Member of state championship 4 x 400-meter relay team.				
PERRY, Senorise	WR	6-0, 180	Summerville, GA	Chattooga
All-State return specialist... Had 918 yards rushing, 216 yards receiving and scored 12 touchdowns as a senior... Scored six return touchdowns... Had three interceptions.				
ROBINSON, Stephan	WR	5-8, 175	Louisville	Central
Courier-Journal third-team All-State... As a senior, had 33 receptions for 673 yards and six touchdowns... Had 32 receptions for 764 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior.				
ROGERS, Deon	LB	6-2, 186	Port St. Lucie, FL	Treasure Coast
Rivals.com rated No. 43 outside linebacker nationally... Had 58 tackles, including 12 tackles for loss, as a senior.				
SMITH, Jake	OL	6-3, 313	Jacksonville, AL	Jacksonville
All-Area... All-County... Two-time team captain... Three-year starting pitcher for baseball team.				
SMITH, Marcus	ATH	6-4, 211	Columbus, GA	Hardaway
Ranked No. 83 player in Georgia by Rivals.com... Had more than 1,800 yards passing and 14 touchdowns as a senior... Had 227 yards rushing and four touchdowns.				

A LOOK AT THE CARDINALS

RESULTS

4-8, 1-6

W	Indiana State	30-10
L	at Kentucky	27-31
L	at Utah	14-30
L	Pittsburgh	10-35
W	Southern Miss	25-23
L	at Connecticut	25-38
L	at Cincinnati	10-41
W	Arkansas State	21-13
L	at West Virginia	9-17
W	Syracuse	10-9
L	at South Florida	22-34
L	Rutgers	14-34

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

	Cmp	Att	Int	Pct	Yds	TD
A. Froman	111	185	5	60.0	1354	6
J. Burke	49	97	5	50.5	654	3

RECEIVING

	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
S. Long	53	727	13.7	2	92
D. Beaumont	38	465	12.2	0	44
C. Graham	27	323	12.0	2	30

RUSHING

	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
V. Anderson	89	473	5.3	5	37
D. Ashley	106	462	4.4	4	35
B. Powell	108	392	3.6	4	29

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: J. Dempsey 107, C. Campa 90, R. Raglin 63
Tackles for loss: C. Campa 14, L.D. Scott 7, G. Scruggs 6.5
Sacks: C. Campa 6, W. Savoy 5, L.D. Scott 3
Interceptions: C. Thompson 3, J. Patrick 2, B. Heath 2

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	'09 Record
Sept. 4	KENTUCKY	7-6
Sept. 11	EASTERN KENTUCKY	5-6
Sept. 18	at Oregon State	8-5
Oct. 2	at Arkansas State	4-8
Oct. 9	MEMPHIS	2-10
Oct. 15	CINCINNATI	12-1
Oct. 23	CONNECTICUT	8-5
Oct. 30	at Pittsburgh	10-3
Nov. 6	at Syracuse	4-8
Nov. 13	SOUTH FLORIDA	8-5
Nov. 20	WEST VIRGINIA	9-4
Nov. 26	at Rutgers	9-4

Picking the Sun Belt

Room to grow, reason for hope

The powers of the college football world have spent the past year or so giving no end of air time to realignment, trying as best they can to gain an advantage in the fiscal arms race and make damn sure not a dollar slips into the cracks of the sidewalk.

And in those cracks we find the Sun Belt.

The Belt is doing what it can to be bigger and better — a four-year deal with the GMAC Bowl is a nice benefit for members — but the fact remains that the conference essentially is the game's version of a cooperative of third-world countries.

There is some upward mobility, a modicum of development and, in some cases, plenty of reason for hope for the future. But in the end, what happens in the Sun Belt matters little to anyone else, and that's not likely to change soon.

So, The Belt will keep doing what it does best — play entertaining football that can even border on the insane (see last year's 68-49 North Texas victory over Western Kentucky).

Dwight Dasher is back at quarterback for Middle Tennessee State and is *Lindy's* pick for preseason Sun Belt Player of the Year. A year ago he rushed for more than 1,000 yards and threw for another 2,789. He's an electrifying presence for the Raiders and might capture some national attention were he to cut down on the 14 picks he threw a year ago.

Troy will be the primary challenger to the Blue Raiders as coach Larry Blakeney continues to assemble SEC Light (OK, really light) squads loaded with athletes. The best this year is Jerrel Jernigan, a tough 5-9 pass catcher who will attempt to bag

his third consecutive first-team All-Sun Belt award this year. He also appears to be ready to give Dasher a run for Sun Belt Player of the Year.

Representing the other extreme of the competitive spectrum is Western Kentucky, the former FCS power that enters the season with a new coach and a national-long 20-game losing streak.

Former Hilltopper quarterback Willie Taggart has been handed the job of resurrecting a program that in 2002 won the Division I-AA national title.

And perhaps there's the beauty of the Sun Belt. A team like Western Kentucky will likely never grow into a national — or even regional — power, but there's certainly reason to believe the Toppers are just a few years away from playing in the postseason.

Sun Belt Conference Picks

Good news

Bad news

Our call

1. Middle Tenn.

QB Dwight Dasher is back and, alone, is good enough to beat some Sun Belt teams.

The support personnel on offense is thinnish, so injuries will hurt; teams could run wild on the Raiders.

Dasher runs wild and the defense is good enough to keep Troy at bay and the Raiders in a bowl.

2. Troy

As usual, there are playmakers on both sides of the ball and nobody in The Belt is as athletic.

Sun Belt POY Levi Brown is gone, as is most of the defensive front seven.

Oct. 5 vs. MTSU is The Belt's Day of Reckoning ... and it's in Murfreesboro.

3. Arkansas State

You gotta love any team that returns five starters on the OL; playmakers also back on D.

New OC Hugh Freeze — Michael Oher's HS coach in "The Blind Side" — might not have personnel for new spread offense.

Expect inconsistency with a new offense, but if it all clicks, MTSU and Troy should be worried.

4. UL-Monroe

New coach Todd Berry takes control of a team that has no shortage of athletes.

Defense is depleted; hard to imagine the Warhawks being physical enough to compete for the prize.

Most new Sun Belt coaches walk into reclamation projects. This is just a fixer-upper.

5. Florida Atlantic

New defensive coordinator Kurt VanValkenburgh will have most of the starters back from last year's unit.

Again, that defense was just plain bad — hence the old DC getting fired — and there are just three offensive starters back.

This team will find a way to score points and manage to stay middle-pack.

6. UL-Lafayette

Defense will be among The Belt's best, with seven starters back; nice pitch-and-catch combo, too.

TE Ladarius Green and QB Chris Masson will be productive ... assuming somebody can block and run the ball.

The offense ranked 93rd in the nation a year ago and isn't going to be much better, if at all.

7. Florida Int'l.

There are plenty of pass catchers, and the defense will be better just because it can't be much worse.

Teams ran against them with impunity last year, so to even expect mediocrity is probably a reach.

You tell us: New QB, inexperienced OL and a D ranked in triple-digits across the board.

8. North Texas

The personnel will probably look familiar as most everybody is back from last year.

The Belt's worst defense a year ago needs to be markedly better to avoid this being one spot too high.

It's going to be another painful year in Denton, but check back in 2011.

9. Western Kentucky

There's a new coach in town and RB Bobby Rainey is a nice start to the rebuilding effort.

The change in regime and offense might lead more to growing pains than immediate results.

It's hard to see this losing streak not getting to 32 before the year's end.

Lindy's 2010 All-Sun Belt Team

OFFENSE - First Team

QB	Dwight Dasher	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
RB	Alfred Morris	Jr.	Florida Atlantic
RB	Lance Dunbar	Jr.	North Texas
WR	Jerrel Jernigan	Sr.	Troy
WR	T.Y. Hilton	Jr.	FIU
TE	Ladarius Green	Jr.	Louisiana
C	Brad Serirni	Sr.	FIU
OL	Derek Newton	Sr.	Arkansas State
OL	Mark Fisher	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
OL	Tyler Clark	Sr.	Troy
OL	Esteban Santiago	Sr.	North Texas
AP	Jerrel Jernigan	Sr.	Troy
K	Alan Gendreau	Jr.	Middle Tennessee

DEFENSE - First Team

DL	Bryan Hall	Sr.	Arkansas State
DL	Jamari Lattimore	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
DL	Kevin Cyrille	Jr.	Florida Atlantic
DL	Troy Evans	Jr.	Louisiana-Monroe
LB	Grant Fleming	Sr.	Louisiana
LB	Craig Robertson	Sr.	North Texas
LB	Toronto Smith	Sr.	FIU
DB	Jeremy Kellern	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
DB	Anthony Gaitor	Sr.	FIU
DB	Bryan Willis	So.	Troy
DB	Kevin Brown	Sr.	Middle Tennessee
P	Spencer Ortego	Sr.	Louisiana

OFFENSE - Second Team

QB	Jamie Hampton	Jr.	Troy
RB	Frank Goodin	Sr.	Louisiana-Monroe
RB	Bobby Rainey	Jr.	Western Kentucky
WR	Jamaal Jackson	Jr.	North Texas
WR	Tebiarus Gill	Sr.	Troy
TE	Jack Doyle	So.	Western Kentucky
C	Ian Burks	Sr.	Louisiana
OL	James Brown	Jr.	Troy
OL	Alex Stuart	Jr.	Middle Tennessee
OL	Jonathan Decoster	Sr.	Louisiana
OL	Kelvin Drake	Sr.	North Texas
AP	Luther Ambrose	Jr.	Louisiana-Monroe
K	Casey Tinius	Jr.	Western Kentucky

DEFENSE - Second Team

DL	Jared Clendenin	Jr.	Western Kentucky
DL	Jonathan Massaquoi	So.	Troy
DL	Dino Cox	Sr.	Florida Atlantic
DL	Derreck Dean	Jr.	Louisiana
LB	Daniel Sheffield	Sr.	Troy
LB	Thomas Majors	Sr.	Western Kentucky
LB	Demario Davis	Jr.	Arkansas State
DB	Marcus Bartels	Jr.	Florida Atlantic
DB	Jonathan Cyprien	So.	FIU
DB	Dwight Bentley	Jr.	Louisiana
DB	M.D. Jennings	Sr.	Arkansas State
P	Will Goggans	Jr.	Troy

THE BIG ONES

Sept. 2	Minnesota at Middle Tennessee
Sept. 4	Western Kentucky at Nebraska
Sept. 4	Arkansas State at Auburn
Sept. 11	Troy at Oklahoma State
Sept. 11	Rutgers at Florida International
Sept. 18	Louisiana-Monroe at Arkansas State
Sept. 25	Arkansas State at Troy
Oct. 2	Louisville at Arkansas State
Oct. 5	Troy at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 16	Middle Tennessee at Georgia Tech
Oct. 30	Troy at Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 30	North Texas at Western Kentucky
Oct. 30	Florida International at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 2	Middle Tennessee at Arkansas State
Nov. 27	Louisiana at Louisiana-Monroe

Bowl Connection

Sun Belt Champion

New Orleans Bowl
vs. Conference USA

Sun Belt #2

GMAC Bowl vs. MAC



TOP 10 NFL TALENT

1. Jerrel Jernigan	WR	Sr.	Troy	Electric open field skills; could be a pesky slot WR.
2. T.Y. Hilton	WR	Jr.	FIU	Kick return skills give him the hook he needs.
3. Jamari Lattimore	DE	Sr.	MTSU	Has the size, skills and background to be an OLB.
4. Dwight Dasher	QB	Sr.	MTSU	Not as a QB ... as a Wildcat and skilled playmaker.
5. Anthony Gaitor	CB	Sr.	FIU	Lacks ideal size, but two-time All-Sun Belt so far.
6. Alfred Morris	RB	Jr.	FAU	Could add some bulk to give him position flexibility.
7. Lance Dunbar	RB	Jr.	North Texas	His 1,378 yards last season could just be a start.
8. Ladarius Green	TE	Jr.	Louisiana	At 6-6, 225, he'll be someone's idea of a receiving TE.
9. Kevin Cyrille	DL	Jr.	FAU	Has nice size; made 11.5 tackles for loss last season.
10. Kevin Brown	S	Sr.	MTSU	Size gives him edge over teammate Jeremy Kellern.

Most Valuable Player

Dwight Dasher
QB, Middle Tennessee

Offensive Player of the Year

Jerrel Jernigan
WR, Troy

Defensive Player of the Year

Jamari Lattimore
DB, Middle Tennessee

Newcomer of the Year

Tyler Mason
WR, Middle Tennessee

HONOR ROLL

Most Accurate Passer	Jeff Van Camp	Florida Atlantic
Strongest Arm	Jeff Van Camp	Florida Atlantic
Best Scrambler	Dwight Dasher	Middle Tennessee State
Coolest in Clutch	Dwight Dasher	Middle Tennessee State
Toughest to Bring Down	Dwight Dasher	Middle Tennessee State
Best Hands	Jamaal Jackson	North Texas
Most Dangerous Deep Threat	Jerrel Jernigan	Troy
Best Pass Blocker	Derek Newton	Arkansas State
Best Run Blocker	Tyler Clark	Troy
Best Pass Rusher	Troy Evans	Louisiana-Monroe
Best Cover Corner	Bryan Willis	Troy
Special Teams Demon	T.Y. Hilton	Florida International

STATE ARKANSAS STATE | RED WOLVES

Sun Belt rank: 3

Record: 4-8

Sun Belt record: 3-5 (T-6th)

Stadium: ASU Stadium (30,406)

By Paul Borden



Photo by Dennis Hubbard

Demario Davis

"However it comes down will be great for our football team."

— Coach Steve Roberts, on the competition at quarterback

RED WOLVES at a GLANCE

COACH: Steve Roberts — At Arkansas State: 41-55, 8 years

OVERALL: 90-88-1, 16 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Hugh Freeze

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Corless

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2005

LAST BOWL: 2005, New Orleans

RETURNING STARTERS: 10; 5 offense, 5 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Ryan Aplin, WR Dwayne Frampton, RB Derek Lawson, DT Bryan Hall, LB Demario Davis, LB Javon McKinnon, SS Kelcie McCray, FS M.D. Jennings

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The offensive line, which returns five starters and features three others with starting experience, anchors the offense. The top four tacklers, including all-conference candidates in the secondary in safeties Kelcie McCray and M.D. Jennings, return.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Newcomers are going to have to step up at receiver, where sophomore Taylor Stockemer is the leading returning pass catcher with just 16 receptions in 2009. The defensive line loses three starters, including end Alex Carrington, a former conference Defensive Player of the Year.

OFFENSE

New coordinator Hugh Freeze installed a no-huddle spread offense in the spring with redshirt freshman Phillip Butterfield taking advantage of Ryan Aplin's shoulder injury to move into the picture at quarterback.

Aplin started three games last year, but couldn't throw in the spring while recovering from surgery, giving Butterfield extra reps. Coach Steve Roberts says he won't make a decision on the starter until about 10 days before the Sept. 4 opener at Auburn.

The Wolves will have new starters at running back and wide receiver. Juniors Derek Lawson (254 yards rushing) and Jermaine Robertson look to split carries in the backfield.

Newcomer Dwayne Frampton, a junior college transfer out of Los Angeles Harbor College, could be a key addition at wide receiver. He had 77 catches for 1,230 yards and nine touchdowns last season.

Sophomore Taylor Stockemer (16 catches, 347 yards) is the leading returning receiver.

Some newcomers arriving in the fall — including running back Frankie Jackson (2,545 yards rushing as a senior at Capitol High in Baton Rouge, La.) and wide receiver Raheim Alford out of Warren, Ark. — could add some pop to the attack.

The picture is better up front. All five starters return, headed by All-Sun Belt tackle candidate Derek Newton.

DEFENSE

ASU will be counting heavily on newcomers to fill key holes on a unit that led the Sun Belt in scoring and total defense.

The signees include Darron Edwards, a cornerback out of Butler Community College in Kansas; Michael Lombardo, a linebacker out of College of the Sequoias in California; Brandon Joiner, a defensive end out of Navarro (Texas) College; and Grant Hill, a high school safety from McGehee, Ark.

The key area is up front, where the losses include end Alex Carrington and two other starters. Carrington was the Sun Belt's Defensive Player of the Year as a junior in 2008 and a third-round draft pick of the Buffalo Bills this spring. Tackle Bryan Hall, a second-team all-conference pick last year, returns.

Good news is the return of the top four tacklers from 2009. They are linebacker Demario Davis (80 tackles, three sacks); free safety M.D. Jennings (64 stops), strong safety Kelcie McCray (58) and linebacker Javon McKinnon (53 in just nine games).

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Wolves are looking for new kickers and returners. Punter Neely Sullivent and kicker Brandon Parker will face challenges from freshmen Brian Davis and Bobby Zalud in the fall.

With the departure of Brandon Thompkins, the Wolves also are looking for new returners for punts and kickoffs. Frampton could be a candidate there.

OVERVIEW

The Red Wolves were a disappointment in 2009, winning only four games after being picked to finish second in the Sun Belt. Their chances of bouncing back look to depend on how quickly they adapt to the new no-huddle offense and the ability of newcomers to fill key holes on defense.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Dwayne Frampton: Frampton comes out of Los Angeles Harbor College and will be counted on for a big workload as the Red Wolves look for a replacement for Brandon Thompkins. Frampton enrolled early and had an immediate impact in spring drills.

OFFENSE

QB	16	Ryan Aplin	6-1	213	So.
RB	22	Derek Lawson	5-11	216	Jr.
WR	27	Taylor Stockemer	6-4	195	So.
WR	9	Dwayne Frampton	5-9	184	Jr.
WR	17	Allen Muse	6-4	211	So.
TE	85	Kedric Murry	6-3	265	So.
LT	67	Klano Prater*	6-3	292	Sr.
LG	61	Drew Hilton*	6-3	302	Sr.
C	65	Eric Allen*	6-0	300	So.
RG	71	Sifa Etu*	6-1	304	Sr.
RT	72	Derek Newton*	6-5	313	Sr.

DEFENSE

DE	96	Jeremy Gibson	6-5	260	Jr.
DT	90	Bryan Hall*	6-1	284	Sr.
NG	92	Dorvus Woods	6-32	261	Jr.
DE	47	Justin Robertson	6-2	230	Jr.
LB	23	Demario Davis*	6-3	231	Jr.
LB	53	Nick Nelms	5-11	215	So.
LB	5	Javon McKinnon*	6-0	236	Sr.
CB	25	Chaz Scales	5-8	160	So.
CB	19	Walter Moody	5-11	178	Sr.
FS	26	M.D. Jennings*	6-0	172	Sr.
SS	21	Kelcie McCray*	6-2	190	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Brandon Parker	6-0	176	So.
P	15	Neely Sullivent	6-0	193	Jr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	at Auburn
Sept. 11	at Louisiana-Lafayette
Sept. 18	LOUISIANA-MONROE
Sept. 25	at Troy
Oct. 2	LOUISVILLE
Oct. 9	at North Texas
Oct. 16	at Indiana
Oct. 23	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 2	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 13	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Nov. 20	at Navy
Nov. 27	at Florida International

2009 RESULTS

W	Mississippi Valley State	61-0
L	at Nebraska	9-38
L	Troy	27-30
L	at Iowa	21-24
L	at Louisiana-Monroe	10-16
W	Florida International	27-10
L	at Louisville	13-21
L	Louisiana-Lafayette	18-21
L	at Florida Atlantic	18-35
L	at Middle Tennessee State	14-38
W	North Texas	30-26
W	vs. Western Kentucky	24-20

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.7	90
Rushing	135.3	76
Passing	193.6	86
Total	328.8	95
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	23.3	45
Rushing	122.0	30
Passing	218.5	60
Total	340.5	41
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-5	-0.42	87



FLORIDA ATLANTIC | OWLS

Sun Belt rank: 5

Record: 5-7

Sun Belt record: 5-3 (T-3rd)

Stadium: Lockhart Stadium (20,500)

By Paul Borden



Photo by Samuel Lewis/Icon Sports

Jeff Van Camp

"The pieces are there on both offense and defense."

— Coach Howard Schnellenberger, on the season's outlook

OWLS at a GLANCE

COACH: Howard Schnellenberger — At FAU, 53-55, 10 years

OVERALL: 153-132-3, 25 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Darryl Jackson

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kurt Van Valkenburgh

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2007

LAST BOWL: 2008, Motor City

RETURNING STARTERS: 13; 3 offense, 8 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Jeff Van Kamp, RB Alfred Morris, WR Lester Jean, TE Rob Housler, DE Kevin Cyrille, CB Tarvoris Hill, CB Tavious Polo, SS Marcus Bartels

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: With nine starters returning, the defense has the chance to make big strides. The secondary looks to be the strength of the unit with all four starters returning. Morris, who led the league in rushing last year, is the biggest threat offensively.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: There are issues on offense everywhere but running back. The line will have five new starters, and there is no experienced backup at quarterback. Wide receiver is also thin. The defensive front seven is going to have to step up against the run.

OFFENSE

After taking over for an injured Rusty Smith last year, quarterback Jeff Van Kamp led the Owls to three wins in their last five games, completing 62 percent of his passes over that span with 12 touchdowns against only two interceptions.

He'll have returning starter Lester Jean, last year's No. 2 receiver (38 catches, four touchdowns), and Avery Holley (22 catches) as his prime targets.

The Owls also will welcome back Rob Housler at tight end. Housler, with two veteran seniors in

front of him last year, redshirted in 2009. He had 32 catches in 2008.

The only other returning starter on offense is running back Alfred Morris. Morris ran for 1,392 yards as a sophomore to earn first-team All-Sun Belt honors, topping the 100-yard mark in seven games. Senior Willie Floyd could help if he can stay healthy.

The big questions are up front. With center Ryan Wischniefski's decision to give up football to concentrate on his post-graduate studies, the Owls must replace all five starters, and there is virtually no experience to choose from.

One player does have starting experience, but both of sophomore Andy Czupryn's starts came on defense. A projected starter up front on defense, he was moved during spring practice to help out the offense.

DEFENSE

The defense needs to take a major step after giving up 453 yards a game last year. Kurt Van Valkenburgh takes over for Kirk Hoza as coordinator and will continue to coach linebackers.

Nine starters return, headed by all-conference candidate Kevin Cyrille at end and top tackler Marcus Bartels at strong safety. Cyrille had a team-best 11 tackles for loss, including three sacks, last year.

To go with his 112 stops, Bartels had an interception, a blocked kick and a forced fumble.

Bartels is one of four returning starters in the secondary. Senior Ed Alexander (three career interceptions) mans the free safety spot, and seniors Tavious Polo and Tarvoris Hill are back at the corners. They each had an interception last year.

Seniors Michael Lockley, the No. 2 tackler in 2009 with 97 stops, and Malik Eugene, who led the team in recovered fumbles with three, are returning starters at linebacker.

In addition to Cyrille, tackle Dino Cox (three sacks) is a returning starter up front. Senior end Daniel Joseph, who started eight games last year, had to contend with a shoulder problem in the spring and faces a challenge from junior Jamere Johnson.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior kicker Ross Gornall (8 of 12 on field goals) and junior punter Mickey Groody (40.6 average) return.

Polo returns punts (5.3 average) and kickoffs (17.0), and sophomore Xavier Stinson also has experience running back kickoffs.

OVERVIEW

The Owls have a some playmakers on offense but will need to get an offensive line together to take advantage of them. The defense should improve, but it has a long way to go after last year's debacle.

TOP NEWCOMER

DE Corey Henry: A 2009 signee out of Carol City High in Miami, Henry didn't get an OK from the NCAA Clearinghouse in time to join the Owls last fall. Henry enrolled in January and put himself into the rotation at defensive end with his play in the spring.

OFFENSE

QB	12	Jeff Van Kamp*	6-5	210	Sr.
RB	32	Alfred Morris*	5-11	222	Jr.
FB	8	Xavier Stinson	5-9	228	So.
WR	1	Avery Holley	6-0	150	Sr.
WR	3	Lester Jean*	6-3	195	Sr.
TE	81	Rob Housler	6-5	210	Sr.
LT	78	Troy Niblack	6-6	280	So.
LG	53	Samuel McRoy	6-4	275	Jr.
C	79	Jordan Sessa	6-5	270	So.
RG	51	Eric Hansen	6-5	240	So.
RT	64	Max Karrick	6-6	280	Jr.

DEFENSE

LE	92	Kevin Cyrille*	6-4	275	Jr.
LT	58	Dino Cox*	6-3	240	Sr.
RT	96	Jimmy Jean	6-2	290	So.
RE	98	Jamere Johnson	6-4	220	Jr.
LB	39	Malik Eugene*	6-3	235	Sr.
LB	45	Michael Lockley*	6-2	220	Sr.
LB	42	Alex Pattee	6-2	240	So.
CB	5	Tavious Polo*	5-11	175	Sr.
CB	9	Tarvoris Hill*	6-0	170	Sr.
SS	27	Marcus Bartels*	5-9	161	Jr.
FS	38	Ed Alexander*	6-1	172	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

P	20	Ross Gornall*	5-11	190	Sr.
P	17	Mickey Groody*	5-11	170	So.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	at UAB
Sept. 11	MICHIGAN STATE
Sept. 25	NORTH TEXAS
Oct. 2	at South Florida
Oct. 9	at Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 23	at Arkansas State
Oct. 30	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Nov. 6	at Western Kentucky
Nov. 13	LOUISIANA
Nov. 20	at Texas
Nov. 27	at Middle Tennessee State
Dec. 4	TROY

2009 RESULTS

L	at Nebraska	3-49
L	at South Carolina	16-38
L	Louisiana-Monroe	25-27
L	Wyoming	28-30
W	at North Texas	44-40
W	at Louisiana-Lafayette	51-29
L	Middle Tennessee State	20-27
L	at UAB	29-56
W	Arkansas State	35-18
L	at Troy	21-47
W	Western Kentucky	29-23
W	vs. Florida International	28-21

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	27.4	60
Rushing	152.4	55
Passing	279.7	18
Total	432.1	15
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	33.8	106
Rushing	220.6	112
Passing	232.6	80
Total	453.2	112
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+1	+0.08	57



FLORIDA INT'L | GOLDEN PANTHERS

Sun Belt rank: 7

Record: 3-9

Sun Belt record: 3-5 (T-6th)

Stadium: FIU Stadium (18,000)

By Paul Borden

Photo by Samuel Lewis (com SMI)



"We think we can be a real explosive offense if we fix some offensive line issues."

— Coach Mario Cristobal

GOLDEN PANTHERS at a GLANCE

COACH: Mario Cristobal — At FIU and overall: 9-27, 3 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Scott Satterfield

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Geoff Collins

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: None

LAST BOWL: None

RETURNING STARTERS: 9; 6 offense, 3 defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Wesley Carroll, WR T.Y. Hilton, WR Wayne Times, RB Jeremiah Harden, LB Toronto Smith, CB Anthony Galtor, S Ashlyn Parker, S Jonathan Cyprien

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The Panthers are deep at wide receiver. Hilton and Times have game-breaking potential, and Greg Ellingson and Jason Frierson are sure-handed pass catchers. Smith came on strong at linebacker last season, and Galtor and Parker are all-conference candidates.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The offensive line lacks depth and is riddled with questions, which is particularly critical with the Panthers breaking in a new starting quarterback. There are also issues up front on defense, which was particularly vulnerable to the run a year ago.

OFFENSE

The Panthers addressed their inconsistent ground game with the addition of Syracuse transfer running back Jeremiah Harden. He finished the spring ahead of junior Darriet Perry, who had five starts last year.

Junior Wesley Carroll, a transfer from Mississippi State, looks to take over for departed Paul McCall at quarterback, but senior Wayne Younger, a starter as a freshman in 2007, challenged in the spring. The position is open going into fall camp.

Wide receiver and tight end are the unit's strengths. Junior T.Y. Hilton fought off a knee injury to make 57 catches last year, and he has 98 receptions in two seasons. Greg Ellingson and Jason Frierson are reliable receivers, and sophomore Wayne Times is a speedster in the same mold as Hilton.

Tight end is solid with juniors Colt Anderson and Jonathan Faucher coming off impressive springs. Dudley LaPorte should be ready. He made a belated debut last season after transferring from junior college, then was hurt in his only game.

The big question is up front. Senior center Brad Serini is a three-year starter and others have starting experience, but depth is lacking in the interior line.

FIU is dealing with the emotional aftermath of the spring stabbing death of running back Kendall Berry.

DEFENSE

The Panthers, who ranked 116th out of 120 FBS teams in rushing defense last season, should improve under new coordinator Geoff Collins. Sophomore end Tourek Williams finished last year on a high note, and there is competition at tackle, where sophomore Andrew Mattox leads the candidates.

The linebacker position looks deeper, even after the departure of Scott Bryant, FIU's all-time leading tackler. Junior Aaron Davis had a strong finish to his sophomore year, and senior Toronto Smith is a returning starter who tied for the team lead in sacks (3.5). Sophomore Pooh Bear Mars also had a solid spring.

If safety Ashlyn Parker can avoid the injuries that have wrecked his past two seasons, the secondary could be the strength of the defense. Senior Anthony Galtor is an all-conference corner, and safety Jonathan Cyprien earned honorable mention recognition as a freshman in 2009. Cornerback Dez Johnson started four games before going out with a back injury.

SPECIAL TEAMS

FIU will be looking for two new kickers, with incoming freshman Josh Brisk looking to handle the punting and Jack Griffin the place-kicking. The return game is among the Sun Belt's best with T.Y. Hilton and Wayne Times both big-play threats.

OVERVIEW

FIU, which is still looking for its first winning season since initiating the program in the 2002 season, isn't likely to break through in 2010. But the Panthers aren't the same team who won only one game over the 2006 and 2007 seasons combined, and they could make some noise in the Sun Belt if they can survive their early schedule.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB Jeremiah Harden: A sophomore transfer from Syracuse who prepped at St. Thomas Aquinas in nearby Fort Lauderdale, Harden established himself atop the depth chart with his spring performance. He gives the Panthers a breakout threat at the position, something they have lacked in recent years.

OFFENSE

QB	13	Wesley Carroll	6-1	202	Jr.
RB	6	Jeremiah Harden	5-11	190	So.
WR	4	T.Y. Hilton*	5-10	175	Jr.
WR	82	Greg Ellingson*	6-4	190	Sr.
WR	80	Jason Frierson*	5-9	175	Sr.
TE	30	Jonathan Faucher*	6-3	210	Jr.
LT	79	James Wiggins	6-4	270	Jr.
LG	53	Giancarlo Revilla	6-2	267	So.
C	76	Brad Serini*	6-3	300	Sr.
RG	66	Dave Istanich*	6-6	305	So.
RT	77	Cedric Mack	6-4	320	Sr.

DEFENSE

DE	97	Tourek Williams	6-4	230	So.
DT	96	Joshua Forney	6-4	255	So.
DT	93	Andrew Mattox	6-1	270	So.
DE	31	Jarvis Wilson	6-2	210	Sr.
LB	13	Toronto Smith*	5-10	220	Sr.
LB	45	Aaron Davis	6-1	245	Jr.
LB	3	Pooh Bear Mars	5-11	210	So.
CB	7	Anthony Galtor*	5-10	178	Sr.
CB	29	Dez Johnson	6-1	178	Sr.
SS	11	Ashlyn Parker	6-0	207	Sr.
FS	25	Jonathan Cyprien*	6-0	185	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

P	40	Josh Brisk	6-0	180	Fr.
K	38	Jack Griffin	5-10	180	So.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

2009 RESULTS

2009 RANKINGS

Sept. 11	RUTGERS
Sept. 18	at Texas A&M
Sept. 25	at Maryland
Oct. 02	at Pittsburgh
Oct. 09	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 16	at North Texas
Oct. 30	at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 06	LOUISIANA-MONROE
Nov. 13	at Troy
Nov. 20	at Louisiana-Lafayette
Nov. 27	ARKANSAS STATE
Dec. 4	MIDDLE TENNESSEE

L	at Alabama	14-40
L	at Rutgers	15-23
L	Toledo	31-41
L	at Louisiana-Monroe	35-48
W	at Western Kentucky	37-20
L	Troy	33-42
L	at Arkansas State	10-27
W	Louisiana-Lafayette	20-17
L	at Middle Tennessee State	21-48
W	North Texas	35-28
L	at Florida	3-62
L	Florida Atlantic	21-28

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.9	88
Rushing	104.3	107
Passing	216.7	60
Total	320.9	100

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	35.3	111
Rushing	232.8	116
Passing	258.8	108
Total	491.6	119

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-4	-0.33	83



LOUISIANA | RAGIN' CAJUNS

Sun Belt rank: 6

Record: 6-6

Sun Belt record: 4-4 (5th)

Stadium: Cajun Field (31,000)

By Geoff Grammer



Photo by Dennis Hubbard

Chris Masson

"There's no question that we have a good team, but there is a lot of work to be done to get ready for the fall."

— Rickey Bustle

RAGIN' CAJUNS at a GLANCE

COACH: Rickey Bustle — At Louisiana and overall: 38-56, 8 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Ron Hudson

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kevin Fouquier

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1994, Big West

LAST BOWL: 1970, Grantland Rice Bowl

RETURNING STARTERS: 14; 5 offense, 7 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: TE Ladarius Green, C Ian Burks, RT Jonathan Decoster, P Spencer Ortego, QB Chris Masson, CB Orkeys Auriene, CB Dwight Bentley

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The passing game should be solid with Masson and Green forming what could be one of the better pass-and-catch duos in the league. The defense, anchored by a strong secondary, has improved steadily under coordinator Kevin Fouquier, who will have the unit blitzing again. Special teams could be team's overall strength.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Replacing three starters on the offensive line, including a pair of first-team All-SBC selections, will be tough. The backfield could become a running-back-by-committee approach, full of inexperienced, unproven players. The schedule is grueling with just five home games, including just one in the final five.

OFFENSE

Simply put, Louisiana has to do better than its 93rd-ranked scoring offense (22.2 points per game).

The hope is second-year starting quarterback Chris Masson will improve on a solid, not spectacular, 2009 season. He completed just a shade under 60 percent of his passes and threw for 2,406 yards, but he had only 10 touchdowns and eight interceptions.

His biggest asset will be tight end Ladarius Green, a 6-6, 225-pounder who led the Cajuns with 533

receiving yards. Senior receiver Marlin Miller leads a wide receiving group with some big-play potential.

Just 10 teams in the nation allowed fewer sacks than the 13 surrendered by Louisiana, but the offensive line loses three starters. The key could come in the swiftness of senior Ian Burks' transition from guard to center to anchor the line. Burks has 32 career starts, but just one at center. He and returning right tackle Jonathan Decoster could push for all-league honors.

There is an alarmingly inexperienced group of running backs. Projected starter Julian Shankle was the team's seventh leading rusher in 2009 with 14 carries and 38 yards. Fall camp will feature two freshmen and a junior college transfer competing for the job.

DEFENSE

The Cajuns thrive on turnovers, picking off 16 passes in 2009 (13th in nation). Three returning starters in the secondary, including all-league candidates Orkeys Auriene and Dwight Bentley at corner, make the pass defense a strength.

Making up for the loss of middle linebacker Antwyne Zanders and his team-leading 103 tackles — 10 for loss — will be a tall order.

Grant Fleming will fill the role in the middle, while Devon Lewis-Buchanan and Daylon McCoy will man the strongside and weakside linebacker positions, respectively. Both are spots ripe for causing problems in coordinator Kevin Fouquier's blitz-happy defense.

There is experience at defensive tackle. Jordan Topp and Derreck Dean will start but will be spelled plenty by any one of four backups who could also push for starting duties.

The defense will need pressure from rush ends Nate Douglas, who sat out injured in 2009, and Terrell Richardson, a returning starter who did not register a sack a year ago.

SPECIAL TEAMS

All-SBC punter Spencer Ortego returns after allowing a grand total of 21 punt return yards in league play, an average of 0.5 yards per return. Junior Tyler Albrecht made 8 of 11 field goals attempts, including a 48-yard game-winner to upset Kansas State in his first career attempt.

The Cajuns rank third in the nation in blocked kicks (41) since coach Rickey Bustle took over in 2002.

OVERVIEW

The defense should be fine, but the offense will have to be better. Unknowns on the offensive line and at running back are reasons to worry. Playing seven road games is tough, but one of the five at home may make up for it as Oklahoma State, and a nationally televised audience, visit Cajun Field on Oct. 8.

TOP NEWCOMER

RB Robert Walker: The freshman enrolled early and, until a minor injury, was pushing for a starting job in the backfield. After rushing for 2,000-plus yards, including one game of 456, as a prep senior, Walker is a player who, if healthy, could develop into a four-year starter.

OFFENSE

QB	7	Chris Masson*	6-2	201	Jr.
RB	33	Julian Shankle	5-10	202	Jr.
FB	46	Matt Desormeaux	6-1	232	Sr.
WR	3	Pierre Hill	6-0	155	Jr.
WR	19	Marlin Miller*	5-11	177	Sr.
TE	89	Ladarius Green*	6-6	225	Jr.
LT	51	Colin Windsor	6-5	290	Sr.
LG	72	Leonardo Bates	6-5	319	So.
C	60	Ian Burks*	6-4	286	Sr.
RG	76	Jaron Odom	6-7	337	So.
RT	73	Jonathan Decoster*	6-5	301	Sr.

DEFENSE

DE	58	Nate Douglas	6-2	242	Jr.
DT	98	Jordan Topp	6-4	301	Sr.
DT	90	Derreck Dean*	5-11	280	Jr.
DE	97	Terrell Richardson*	6-5	260	Sr.
LB	37	Devon Lewis-Buchanan	6-2	206	Jr.
LB	47	Grant Fleming*	6-4	232	Sr.
LB	4	Daylon McCoy*	6-0	215	Sr.
CB	2	Orkeys Auriene*	5-10	175	Sr.
CB	5	Dwight Bentley*	5-11	173	Jr.
SS	21	Lance Kelley*	6-3	196	Jr.
FS	36	Maurice Rolle, Jr.	6-1	192	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10	Tyler Albrecht*	6-1	196	Sr.
P	35	Spencer Ortego*	6-3	204	Sr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	at Georgia
Sept. 11	ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 25	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Oct. 2	at North Texas
Oct. 8	OKLAHOMA STATE
Oct. 16	at Troy
Oct. 23	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Oct. 30	at Ohio
Nov. 6	at Mississippi
Nov. 13	at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 20	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Nov. 27	at Louisiana-Monroe

2009 RESULTS

W	Southern	42-19
W	Kansas State	17-15
L	at LSU	3-31
L	at Nebraska	0-55
W	North Texas	38-34
W	at Western Kentucky	30-22
L	Florida Atlantic	29-51
L	at Florida International	17-20
W	at Arkansas State	21-18
L	at Middle Tennessee State	17-34
W	Louisiana-Monroe	21-17
	GMAC Bowl	
L	vs. Troy	31-48

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	22.2	93
Rushing	136.9	71
Passing	224.8	49
Total	361.8	76
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	30.3	97
Rushing	181.9	99
Passing	222.4	70
Total	404.3	92
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+3	+0.25	45



LOUISIANA-MONROE | WARHAWKS

Sun Belt rank: 4

Record: 6-6

Sun Belt record: 5-3 (T-3rd)

Stadium: Malone Stadium (30,427)

By Geoff Grammer

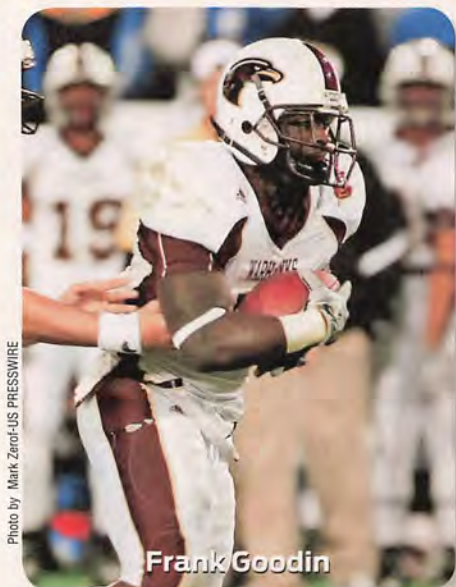


Photo by Mark Zerkus PRESSWIRE

Frank Goodin

"They have made huge strides mentally and we have to continue to close that gap mentally, because most of our mistakes are not physical, they are mental."

— Coach Todd Berry on his team's QBs.

WARHAWKS at a GLANCE

COACH: Todd Berry — At ULM: first year; overall: 5-42, 4 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Steve Farmer

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Troy Reffett

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 1992, Southland

LAST BOWL: Never

RETURNING STARTERS: 11; 6 offense, 4 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Frank Goodin, S Darius Prelow, LG Jonathan Gill, LT Justin Roberts, WR/KR Luther Ambrose, LB Theo Smith

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Goodin might prove to be the best running back in the Sun Belt. He ran for 1,100 yards a year ago and enters the season as the one proven commodity on offense. The secondary is strong and returns a pair of starters, meaning the ULM pass defense could catch up to its run defense.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Losing several starters on defense will hurt. Having a defensive line that averages just 271 pounds means the odds of repeating as the Sun Belt's top rush defense is slim. On offense, is the decision to go with a redshirt freshman at quarterback over a fifth-year returning starter a sign of rebuilding ... or did the best man win in the spring?

OFFENSE

When new head coach Todd Berry said all positions were open in the spring, few believed that meant the door was open for a redshirt freshman quarterback to take over.

Kolton Browning was placed atop the post-spring depth chart, edging out returning starter Trey Revell, a fifth-year senior who threw for 1,739 yards and ranked fourth in the Sun Belt Conference with a 134.6 passing efficiency rating.

As long as either can hand off the ball to

returning starting running back Frank Goodin, the offense could be fine. The senior was third in the SBC last year at 93.8 yards per game, rushing for 1,126 yards and 13 touchdowns, one shy of the school record.

Berry seems more prone to pass, though, and that leads to question marks. No wide receiver or tight end had more than four starts in 2009 and none scream out all-league material. The unit will have a hard time replacing LaGregory Sapp and Darrell McNeal, both of whom finished in the top 10 in receiving yards per game in the SBC.

On the line, there is experience, most notably on the left side with Justin Roberts (tackle) and Jonathan Gill (guard).

DEFENSE

In 2009, ULM's calling card was a senior-dominated defense that ranked in the top three in the Sun Belt in scoring and total defense and was the league's best at stopping the run.

Don't count on a repeat performance from ULM's rebuilding 3-3-5 defense.

Coaches will cross their fingers that their under-sized front — ends Ken Dorsey and Troy Evans and tackle Aaron Moore average 271 pounds — won't get pushed around too much by larger opposing offensive lines.

At linebacker, senior Theo Smith is the lone returning starter after a 57-tackle, 3.5-sack season. DaCorris Ford and Jason Edwards, the other projected starters, combined for just 30 tackles in spot duty a year ago.

In terms of experience, the five-man starting secondary should be the best of the defense. Safety Darius Prelow is a potential all-league type after posting 12 passes defended and 62 tackles in 2009.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Only three players in the league had more total kick return yards than Luther Ambrose's 832, but he and the rest of the return game must be more productive.

Radi Jabour connected on 12 field goals in 2009, but attempted 20, leaving him with a 60 percent conversion rate that ranked second to last in the Sun Belt. He also missed three extra point tries. Freshman Thomas Giddens takes over at punter.

OVERVIEW

Losing so many starters from a solid defense means the team can't count on being the best in the Sun Belt against the run again this year. The offense has some experience but appears ready to start from scratch with a redshirt freshman taking the quarterback job away from a fifth-year senior. That may be good news for the long run, but not for 2010.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Kolton Browning: Coach Todd Berry must have confidence, as he is handing the quarterback reins to a redshirt freshman in place of a fifth-year senior who started nine games in 2009. Browning's spring was certainly worthy of becoming the starter.

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Kolton Browning	6-1	198	Fr.
RB	5	Frank Goodin*	5-9	211	Sr.
WR	83	Anthony McCall	6-1	190	Jr.
WR	22	Luther Ambrose*	5-9	173	Jr.
WR	10	Tim Taylor*	5-9	177	Jr.
TE	80	Keavon Milton	6-4	267	So.
LT	69	Justin Roberts*	6-4	304	Jr.
LG	56	Jonathan Gill*	6-3	292	So.
C	72	Ryan McCaul	6-5	299	Jr.
RG	74	Andrew Stout	6-2	285	Sr.
RT	75	Anthony Montgomery	6-4	312	Jr.

DEFENSE

DE	52	Ken Dorsey	6-2	270	Jr.
DT	91	Aaron Moore	5-10	279	Sr.
DE	55	Troy Evans*	6-2	263	Jr.
LB	42	Theo Smith*	5-11	215	Sr.
LB	54	Jason Edwards	5-11	237	Jr.
LB	45	DaCorris Ford	6-1	219	So.
CB	32	Montavious Hill	5-9	162	Jr.
CB	26	Nate Brown*	5-9	178	Jr.
S	37	Darius Prelow*	6-0	207	Jr.
S	8	Khairi Usher	5-9	186	So.
S	30	Alex Ilbe	6-2	216	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	85	Radi Jabour*	6-0	187	Jr.
P	13	Thomas Giddens	6-0	185	Fr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	ARKANSAS
Sept. 18	at Arkansas State
Sept. 25	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Oct. 2	at Auburn
Oct. 9	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Oct. 16	at Western Kentucky
Oct. 23	at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 30	TROY
Nov. 6	at Florida International
Nov. 13	at LSU
Nov. 20	NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 27	LOUISIANA

2009 RESULTS

L	at Texas	20-59
W	Texas Southern	58-0
L	at Arizona State	14-38
W	at Florida Atlantic	27-25
W	Florida International	48-35
W	Arkansas State	16-10
L	at Kentucky	13-36
L	at Troy	21-42
W	at North Texas	33-6
W	Western Kentucky	21-18
L	at Louisiana	17-21
L	Middle Tennessee State	19-38

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.6	72
Rushing	183.9	31
Passing	208.4	72
Total	392.3	48
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	27.3	74
Rushing	110.1	20
Passing	236.9	90
Total	347.0	44
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-5	-0.42	T-87



MIDDLE TENNESSEE | BLUE RAIDERS

Sun Belt rank: 1

Record: 10-3

Sun Belt record: 7-1 (2nd)

Stadium: Floyd Stadium (30,788)

By Paul Borden



Dwight Dasher

"We have a long ways to go. We are very inconsistent on both sides of the ball."

— Coach Rick Stockstill, after spring ball

BLUE RAIDERS at a GLANCE

COACH: Rick Stockstill — At Middle Tennessee and overall: 27-23, 5 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mike Schultz

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Randall McCray

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2006, co-champs

LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2008

RETURNING STARTERS: 15; 8 offense, 6 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Dwight Dasher, RT Mark Fisher, RB D.D. Kyles, WR Garrett Andrews, DE Jamari Lattimore, LB Antwan Davis, CB Rod Isaac, SS Kevin Brown, FS Jeremy Kellem

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Dasher alone makes the Raiders one of the more explosive offensive teams in the country, and half of the returning starters on offense are in the interior line. The Raiders also are deep at running back.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Depth could be an issue at wide receiver and on the offensive line, and Brent Burnette's decision to transfer leaves the Raiders with no experienced backup for Dasher. With four new starters in the front seven, the run defense could be vulnerable.

OFFENSE

Middle Tennessee has one of the most electrifying offensive players in the country in senior Dwight Dasher, a dual-threat quarterback who ran for a team-high 1,154 yards and threw for 2,789 more in 2009. He ran for 13 touchdowns and threw for 23 against 14 interceptions.

With him running the show, the Raiders' no-huddle approach keeps constant pressure on opposing defensive coordinators.

Dasher's top two receivers, Patrick Honeycutt (37 catches) and Chris McClover (35), are gone, but senior

Garrett Andrews, who also had 35 receptions, is back along with junior Sancho McDonald (24 receptions).

The concern at wide receiver is depth, and coach Rick Stockstill went to California's junior college ranks for some immediate help, getting Jamar Brown from Feather River Community College and Tyler Mason from Chabot.

But there is no worry about depth at running back.

Junior D.D. Kyles returns after rushing for 857 yards, and senior Phillip Tanner will be back from a knee injury that limited him to just two games last year. He had 83 yards on 18 carries before his injury.

The interior offensive line is a salty bunch with four starters returning. Mark Fisher is an all-conference candidate at right tackle.

The Raiders are looking for a new starter at center, where senior Chris Hawkins faces a challenge from junior college transfer Jeremiah Black out of West Hills (Calif.) CC.

DEFENSE

The Red Raiders lose five starters on defense with four of them among the front seven. The losses include Chris McCoy, a first-team all-conference end, and Brandon Perry, who started 13 games at tackle.

Returning starters are end Jamari Lattimore, tackle Dwight Smith and linebacker Antwan Davis.

Lattimore was second-team All-Sun Belt as a junior last year. Smith came back from a knee injury in spring 2009 to start 12 of 13 games, and Davis had three tackles for loss (one sack) among his 52 stops.

Other than Davis, a senior, there is a lot of youth at linebacker, which must replace leading tackler Cam Robinson (113 tackles, five sacks).

Potential starter Stephen Roberts is one of three redshirt freshmen competing for time with true sophomore Justin Jones.

Senior safeties Kevin Brown (four interceptions) and Jeremy Kellem (three picks) head a secondary that also returns senior Rod Isaac as a starting corner.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Alan Gendreau was first-team All-Sun Belt and a Lou Groza Award semifinalist in 2009, when he made 18 of 22 field goal attempts. But the Raiders are looking for a new punter. Nathaniel Toulson had one attempt last year and it covered 52 yards. Tanner is the likely primary kick returner, but the punt returner remains to be determined.

OVERVIEW

No question, MTSU has the offensive firepower to win the Sun Belt, and with non-conference opponents like Minnesota and Georgia Tech, the Raiders could get some well-deserved national recognition. The key will be if their defense comes through, especially up front.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Tyler Mason: Though undersized at 5-7, 158, Mason was the most impressive in the spring of three junior college newcomers who are being counted on for immediate contributions at wide receiver.

OFFENSE

QB	9	Dwight Dasher*	5-10	202	Jr.
RB	21	D.D. Kyles*	6-1	198	Jr.
WR	15	Sancho McDonald	6-3	200	Jr.
WR	27	Tavares Jefferson	5-9	194	So.
WR	83	Shane Blissard*	6-5	212	Jr.
WR	80	Garrett Andrews*	6-3	206	Sr.
LT	78	Mike Williams*	6-2	260	Jr.
LG	60	Brandon McLeroy*	6-3	305	Jr.
C	75	Chris Hawkins	6-3	285	Sr.
RG	65	Alex Stuart*	6-3	281	Jr.
RT	74	Mark Fisher*	6-3	272	Sr.

DEFENSE

LE	11	Jamari Lattimore*	6-3	231	Sr.
LT	94	Gary Tucker	6-2	248	Sr.
RT	47	Dwight Smith*	6-2	272	Sr.
RE	91	Emmanuel Perez	6-1	226	Sr.
LB	52	Antwan Davis*	6-1	218	Sr.
LB	87	Stephen Roberts	6-3	229	Fr.
LB	32	Justin Jones	5-11	216	So.
CB	6	Rod Isaac*	5-11	186	Sr.
CB	41	Marquise Dixon	5-10	172	Fr.
SS	33	Kevin Brown*	6-1	205	Sr.
FS	20	Jeremy Kellem*	5-10	188	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	38	Alan Gendreau*	5-10	175	Jr.
P	36	Nathaniel Toulson	6-1	229	Jr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	MINNESOTA
Sept. 11	AUSTIN PEAY
Sept. 18	at Memphis
Sept. 25	at Louisiana-Lafayette
Oct. 5	TROY
Oct. 16	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 23	LOUISIANA-MONROE
Nov. 2	at Arkansas State
Nov. 13	NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 20	at Western Kentucky
Nov. 27	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Dec. 4	at Florida International

2009 RESULTS

L	at Clemson	14-37
W	Memphis	31-14
W	at Maryland	32-31
W	at North Texas	37-21
L	at Troy	7-31
L	Mississippi State	6-27
W	Western Kentucky	62-24
W	at Florida Atlantic	27-20
W	Florida International	48-21
W	Louisiana-Lafayette	34-17
W	Arkansas State	38-14
W	at Louisiana-Monroe	38-19
	New Orleans Bowl	
W	vs. Southern Miss	42-32

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	32.0	23
Rushing	186.0	27
Passing	235.7	42
Total	421.7	27
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	23.7	49
Rushing	136.9	50
Passing	218.1	59
Total	354.9	50
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+12	+0.92	8



TROY | TROJANS

Sun Belt rank: 2

Record: 9-4

Sun Belt record: 8-0 (1st)

Stadium: Movie Gallery Veterans Stadium (30,000)

By Matt Lowe

Photo by D. Jay Talbott/icon SM



Jerrel Jernigan

"He's a great community guy and a good student. He cares about Troy and he cares about people."

— Larry Blakeney, on Jerrel Jernigan.

TROJANS at a GLANCE

COACH: Larry Blakeney — At Troy and overall: 153-77-1, 19 years

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Kenny Edenfield

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Jeremy Rowell

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2009

LAST TIME DIDN'T GO BOWLING: 2007

RETURNING STARTERS: 10; 5 offense, 3 defense, kicker, punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Jamie Hampton, RB DuJuan Harris, RB Shawn Southward, WR Jerrel Jernigan, OT James Brown, LB Daniel Sheffield, LB Xavier Lamb, DB Bryan Willis

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Hampton has plenty of experience running Troy's offense and should step in for the departed Levi Brown at QB. Southward and Jernigan are two of the top playmakers in the Sun Belt and can score from anywhere on the field. Sheffield, Lamb and Willis are playmakers on a young defensive unit.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Replacing Sun Belt Player of Year Levi Brown won't be easy. The Trojans also must replace two interior offensive linemen, their entire defensive line and the team's top two tacklers. A complement to Jernigan must be found, as well as a capable pass rusher.

OFFENSE

Jamie Hampton, after redshirting a year ago, seems poised to retake the helm at quarterback, but redshirt freshman Corey Robinson is in the mix. Hampton and Robinson are dual-threat quarterbacks who are well suited for Troy's spread offense.

Shawn Southward and DuJuan Harris form one of the top one-two running back punches in the Sun Belt. Southward was named the conference's Freshman of the Year after rushing for 602 yards and 12 touchdowns. The native of Florence, Ala.,

isn't very big, but he's a north-south runner with good hands.

Harris, like Southward, is a solid all-around back. His 836 all-purpose yards ranked second on the team to Jerrel Jernigan's 2,264, and his 10 rushing touchdowns also ranked second on the club.

Jernigan, an All-Sun Belt first-team selection two years in a row, is a viable candidate for league Player of the Year honors after totaling 1,101 yards receiving, 266 yards rushing and 897 yards on kick returns a year ago. Tebrius Gill, Jason Bruce, Chip Reeves and Josh Jarboe are also expected to have roles in the Trojans' passing attack.

James Brown and Kyle Wilborn are the starting tackles. Tyler Clark (center) and Tyler Graves (left guard) round out the rest of the line. The right guard position remains a question mark.

DEFENSE

The Trojans lost their top three tacklers and top three pass rushers from a season ago, so the front seven will undergo a major overhaul.

Jonathan Massaquoi, whom coach Larry Blakeney said "can be as good as he wants to be," could help ease the loss of All-Sun Belt performers Brandon Lang and Cameron Sheffield at defensive end. He recorded nine tackles, three sacks and an interception in the final spring scrimmage.

Massaquoi and Mario Addison likely will be the starters at defensive end, while Riley Flowers and Emanuel Dudley plug the interior. Brandon Boudreaux, Antonio Harper and Tony Davis could also be in the mix up front.

Daniel Sheffield, who started 12 games a year ago, returns at one outside linebacker spot. Xavier Lamb will man the middle. Blakeney speaks highly of Kanorris Davis, also a candidate to start. Sam Sellers and Mike Robinson will see time in Troy's nickel package.

Cornerback Bryan Willis, who led the team with four picks and tied for third on the team in tackles as a freshman, anchors the secondary. Willard Ross, Barry Valcin and Bryant McKissic are also projected starters. Jimmie Anderson — whom Blakeney says has great ball skills — and KeJuan Phillips will provide depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jernigan will handle the primary punt and kick return duties. Michael Taylor will handle the place-kicking duties after nailing 11 of 14 field-goal attempts. Will Goggans will be the starting punter.

OVERVIEW

Although the Trojans lost of a slew of veterans on both lines and at linebacker, there is still enough talent to compete for a third straight outright Sun Belt title.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Khary Franklin: He played quarterback at one of the top high school programs in Georgia and has the skill set to make an early impact. Franklin isn't big (5-7, 165), but he's lightning quick and has great football instincts.

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Jamie Hampton	6-1	212	Jr.
RB	20	Shawn Southward	5-8	184	So.
WR	3	Jerrel Jernigan*	5-9	184	Sr.
WR	10	Tebrius Gill*	6-1	204	Sr.
WR	9	Jason Bruce	5-9	159	Sr.
WR	8	Chip Reeves	5-11	175	Jr.
LT	70	James Brown*	6-4	346	Jr.
LG	69	Tyler Graves	6-5	281	Sr.
C	58	Tyler Clark*	6-2	285	Sr.
RG	55	Micah Grimes	6-4	302	Jr.
RT	77	Kyle Wilborn*	6-4	288	So.

DEFENSE

DE	94	Jonathan Massaquoi	6-2	227	So.
DT	93	Riley Flowers	5-11	280	Jr.
DT	92	Emanuel Dudley	6-0	286	Jr.
DE	7	Mario Addison	6-2	244	Sr.
LB	44	Kanorris Davis	5-11	215	So.
LB	25	Xavier Lamb	5-9	222	Jr.
LB	39	Daniel Sheffield*	6-3	206	Sr.
CB	15	Barry Valcin*	5-11	184	Sr.
CB	26	Bryan Willis*	5-9	180	So.
SS	23	Bryant McKissic	6-1	212	Sr.
FS	22	Willard Ross	5-11	199	Sr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	35	Michael Taylor*	5-10	206	Jr.
P	47	Will Goggans*	6-0	220	Jr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 11	at Oklahoma State
Sept. 18	at UAB
Sept. 25	ARKANSAS STATE
Oct. 5	at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 16	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
Oct. 30	at Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 6	at North Texas
Nov. 13	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Nov. 20	at South Carolina
Nov. 27	WESTERN KENTUCKY
Dec. 4	at Florida Atlantic

2009 RESULTS

L	at Bowling Green	14-31
L	at Florida	6-56
W	UAB	27-14
W	at Arkansas State	30-27
W	Middle Tennessee State	31-7
W	at Florida International	42-33
W	North Texas	50-26
W	Louisiana-Monroe	42-21
W	at Western Kentucky	40-20
L	at Arkansas	20-56
W	Florida Atlantic	47-21
W	at Louisiana-Lafayette	48-31
	GMAC Bowl	
L	vs. Central Michigan (OT)	41-44

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	33.7	16
Rushing	149.2	60
Passing	336.5	4
Total	485.7	3
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.8	92
Rushing	137.8	53
Passing	286.8	118
Total	424.5	104
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-6	-0.46	94



WESTERN KENTUCKY | HILLTOPPERS

Sun Belt rank: 9

Record: 0-12

Sun Belt: 0-8 (9th)

Stadium: Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium (22,113)

By Nick Baumgardner



Bobby Rainey

"We don't need any bus riders and steak eaters. We need football players who can come in and help us win now. Not later. Now."

— Coach Willie Taggart

HILLTOPPERS at a GLANCE

COACH: Willie Taggart — At WKU and overall: first year

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Willie Taggart

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Clint Bowen

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2002, Gateway Football Conference co-champs

LAST BOWL: None

RETURNING STARTERS: 17; 9 offense, 7 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Bobby Rainey, QB Matt Pelesasa, QB Kawaun Jakes, TE Jack Doyle, MLB Thomas Majors, DE Jared Clendenin, OLB Chris Bullard, FS Mark Santoro

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: With 20 straight losses and the school's worst season ever in 2009, WKU has brought in a school Hall of Famer as its new head coach. With that comes some much-needed enthusiasm for the newest member in the FBS.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: After losing 20 straight games, the bulk of this youthful squad has really no idea how to win a football game at the college level. Also, Taggart has never served as a coordinator within the FBS, let alone a head coach. Some serious growing pains could linger this season in basically every facet.

OFFENSE

New coach Willie Taggart is implementing major changes on both sides, including installing a West Coast offense — a scheme drastically different from the spread-option look WKU ran the past three seasons.

Still, the main cog will be running back Bobby Rainey, who rushed for 939 yards last year, averaging 6.5 per carry.

The race for the quarterback job is between sophomore Kawaun Jakes (who threw for 1,516 yards last season) and junior college transfer Matt Pelesasa.

Jakes suffered a sprained ankle and missed nearly all of spring practice, opening the door for Pelesasa to be the frontrunner.

On the line, senior guards Derrick Elder and Mychal Patterson will join senior tackle Preston King and junior tackle Wes Jeffries as the mainstays. Redshirt freshman center Sean Conway figures to earn a spot in the middle to start the season.

At receiver, WKU will look to replace the school's all-time leading pass catcher, Jake Gaebler, with Marcus Vasquez, Quinterrance Cooper and freshman Willie McNeal — who earned MVP honors with more than 100 all-purpose yards in the spring game.

Sophomore tight end Jack Doyle was one of WKU's most consistent pass-catching threats a year ago, grabbing 37 balls for 365 yards.

DEFENSE

The Hilltoppers will switch from a 3-4 to a 4-3 scheme under first-year coordinator Clint Bowen.

Defensive end Jared Clendenin, a two-year starter, leads the way up front. Sophomore end Quanterus Smith, moving from outside linebacker, had a productive spring and has the size and athleticism to make an impact up front.

The linebacker corps will be led from the inside by senior Thomas Majors, who led the team last season with 101 tackles. Majors will be joined by outside linebacker Chris Bullard and strong safety-turned-outside linebacker Orlando Misaalefua. Bullard and Misaalefua combined for 94 tackles a season ago.

The secondary is by far the biggest question mark as WKU struggled to compete athletically in the defensive backfield for most of last season. Safety Mark Santoro should be back in the starting lineup, as could cornerback Jamal Forrest.

WKU signed six defensive backs, and they all could have a chance to play right away.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Casey Tinius returns after going 14 of 19 on field goal attempts. Hendrix Brakefield will take over the punting duties for the departed Jeremy Moore, a former three-year starter. Rainey is a huge threat in the return game, as he ranked second in the Sun Belt Conference in all-purpose yards last season — 1,050 of them coming via kickoff return.

OVERVIEW

A new era has begun with the hiring of former WKU standout quarterback Willie Taggart, who most recently was Stanford's running backs coach. Taggart takes over for David Elson, who was fired midway through an 0-12 campaign. It likely will be another long year for the Hilltoppers, who hold a nation-long 20-game losing streak as they embark on their second full-fledged season as an FBS member.

TOP NEWCOMER

QB Matt Pelesasa: The junior college transfer put himself in prime position to become the starter. Pelesasa threw for 1,621 yards and 24 touchdowns while rushing for 594 yards and six scores last season at the College of San Mateo in Redwood City, Calif.

OFFENSE

QB	2	Matt Pelesasa	6-1	236	Jr.
RB	3	Bobby Rainey*	5-8	200	Jr.
FB	27	Rod Johnson	5-11	258	Sr.
WR	7	Quinterrance Cooper*	5-11	194	Sr.
WR	86	Willie McNeal	5-10	158	Fr.
TE	82	Jack Doyle*	6-6	248	So.
LT	77	Wes Jeffries*	6-4	301	Jr.
LG	74	Mychal Patterson*	6-3	287	Sr.
C	65	Sean Conway	6-3	288	Fr.
RG	72	Derrick Elder	6-2	308	Sr.
RT	68	Preston King*	6-5	295	Sr.

DEFENSE

DE	5	Jared Clendenin*	6-3	258	Jr.
DT	92	James Hervey	6-1	269	So.
DT	45	Cole Tischer	6-4	267	So.
DE	93	Quanterus Smith*	6-5	240	So.
LB	10	Chris Bullard*	5-11	243	Sr.
LB	6	Thomas Majors*	6-0	240	Sr.
LB	31	Orlando Misaalefua*	5-10	218	Sr.
CB	18	Jamal Forrest*	5-9	163	So.
CB	26	Avery Hibbitt	5-9	178	Jr.
SS	19	Mark Santoro*	6-0	196	Jr.
FS	15	Ryan Beard	6-0	187	Jr.

SPECIAL TEAMS

83	K	Casey Tinius*	6-0	181	Jr.
99	P	Hendrix Brakefield	6-4	218	Fr.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	at Nebraska
Sept. 11	at Kentucky
Sept. 18	INDIANA
Sept. 25	at South Florida
Oct. 9	at Florida International
Oct. 16	LOUISIANA-MONROE
Oct. 23	at Louisiana-Lafayette
Oct. 30	NORTH TEXAS
Nov. 6	FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Nov. 13	at Arkansas State
Nov. 20	MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Nov. 27	at Troy

2009 RESULTS

L	at Tennessee	7-63
L	South Florida	13-35
L	Central Arkansas	7-28
L	at Navy	22-38
L	Florida International	20-37
L	Louisiana-Lafayette	22-30
L	at Middle Tennessee State	24-62
L	at North Texas	49-68
L	Troy	20-40
L	at Louisiana-Monroe	18-21
L	at Florida Atlantic	23-29
L	Arkansas State	20-24

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	20.4	104
Rushing	172.8	37
Passing	147.9	110
Total	320.8	101

DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	39.6	119
Rushing	244.8	118
Passing	233.4	81
Total	478.3	118

TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
-12	-1.00	115



LOUISIANA TECH | BULLDOGS

WAC rank: 4

Record: 4-8

WAC record: 3-5 (T-5th)

Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium: 30,600

By Geoff Grammer



Adrien Cole

"It's just fun. All you have to do is come to the game and watch and you'll see it is high flying."

— Center Lon Roberts, on the new offense

BULLDOGS at a GLANCE

COACH: Sonny Dykes — At Louisiana Tech and overall: first year

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tony Franklin

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Tommy Spangler

LAST LEAGUE TITLE: 2001

LAST BOWL: 2008, Independence

RETURNING STARTERS: 15; 7 offense, 6 defense, punter, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: S Tank Calais, WR/KR Phillip Livas, WR Tim Molton, LT Rob McGill, C Lon Roberts, LB Adrien Cole, LB Solomon Randle, K Matt Nelson

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The athleticism and depth at the skill positions, especially at receiver, had to be a pleasant surprise for Dykes, a late hire who had little time to recruit to his scheme. Returning five starters on the offensive line helps, as does having several potential all-league players on defense.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Stretches of three-and-outs will lead to field position woes if punting struggles continue. Having five starters back on the O-line is less impressive considering those starters were recruited to primarily run block and are now being asked to mostly pass protect.

OFFENSE

The WAC's final stat sheet in 2010 likely will include a Louisiana Tech quarterback at or near the top of all the passing categories. Now all the team has to do is figure out who that will be.

Incumbent starter Ross Jenkins has a leg up in new head coach Sonny Dykes' pass-happy spread offense. But Jenkins (2,095 yards, 17 touchdowns in 2009) is going to have to hold off Steven Ensinger, an Auburn transfer who finished last year as the Bulldogs' fourth-string tight end.

Five starting offensive linemen return, as do at least three backups who may end up as starters. The unit is anchored by all-league candidate Rob McGill at left tackle.

The run game, once the focal point, will try to replace workhorse Daniel Porter, the program's all-time leading rusher, by committee. Sophomores Tyrone Duplessis and D.J. Morrow and junior Myke Compton will play but could take a back seat to Tennessee transfer Lennon Creer.

Athleticism and depth at receiver is one of the Bulldogs' strengths. Phillip Livas will get help from transfers Tim Molton (LSU) and Ahmad Paige (Tennessee).

DEFENSE

Undoubtedly, there are several hard-nosed players returning on defense.

Considering how good Adrien Cole was in 2009 (team-high 93 tackles), the fact that Solomon Randle has made a push to be the team's starting middle linebacker bodes well for the depth of the defense. Coaches likely will find a way to have Cole and Randle on the field together.

The defensive front needs somebody to step up to replace three starters, including run-stuffer D'Anthony Smith. End Matt Broha is the mainstay but doesn't have much proven help around him.

The secondary is solid by WAC standards and is led by strong safety Tank Calais. He had 77 tackles last season and could be one of the best in the league.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Phillip Livas is one of the best return men in the nation; he has scored six times on punt and kick returns in his career, two off the NCAA record. Sophomore kicker Matt Nelson hit on 12 of 16 field goals as a true freshman, including a 46-yarder.

Punting, however, is a major concern. Cade Glasgow struggled in 2009 and, despite trying several other players at the position last year and in the spring, he still had the job entering the summer.

Dykes said, however, he hopes to find a new punter by season's start.

OVERVIEW

If Dykes, whose offensive mentors include Mike Leach and Hal Mumme, can convert the run-first roster into a team that can execute his pass-happy scheme, the Bulldogs can compete with the top half of the WAC. In fact, getting Nevada and Fresno State at home late in the year could sneak the Bulldogs into the conversation for league runner-up, assuming Boise State cruises through the league as expected.

TOP NEWCOMER

WR Tim Molton: The LSU transfer never played for the Tigers after a summer 2009 ACL tear. Now healthy and playing in a pass-first offense, Molton has the speed and athleticism to push for all-league consideration in the WAC.

OFFENSE

QB	11	Ross Jenkins*	6-3	212	Sr.
RB	5	Lennon Creer	6-1	205	Jr.
WR	8	Tim Molton	6-2	170	Fr.
WR	6	Phillip Livas*	5-8	175	Sr.
WR	13	Ahmad Paige	6-1	180	So.
TE	80	Eric Harper	6-4	230	Jr.
LT	74	Rob McGill*	6-6	310	Sr.
LG	57	Kevin Saia*	6-2	300	So.
C	60	Lon Roberts*	6-3	285	Sr.
RG	63	Stephen Warner*	6-0	300	So.
RT	76	Cudahy Harmon*	6-6	310	Sr.

DEFENSE

LE	91	Matt Broha*	6-4	235	Jr.
DT	94	Ramone Randle	6-2	300	Sr.
DT	90	Mason Hitt*	6-1	270	Sr.
RE	93	Christian Lacey	6-1	240	Jr.
LB	45	Jay Dudley*	6-3	225	Jr.
LB	44	Adrien Cole*	5-11	240	Jr.
LB	56	Solomon Randle	5-11	235	So.
CB	28	Terry Carter*	5-10	185	Jr.
CB	15	Josh Victorian	5-10	185	Sr.
S	4	Tank Calais*	5-11	205	Sr.
S	37	C.J. Broades	6-1	205	So.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	33	Matt Nelson*	5-5	155	So.
P	14	Cade Glasgow*	6-0	180	So.

* Returning Starters in Bold

2010 PROJECTED STARTERS

2010 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	vs. Grambling St. (Shreveport, LA)
Sept. 11	at Texas A&M
Sept. 18	NAVY
Sept. 25	SOUTHERN MISS
Oct. 2	at Hawaii
Oct. 9	UTAH STATE
Oct. 16	IDAHO
Oct. 26	at Boise State
Nov. 6	FRESNO STATE
Nov. 13	at New Mexico State
Nov. 27	at San Jose State
Dec. 4	NEVADA

2009 RESULTS

L	at Auburn	13-37
L	at Navy	14-32
W	Nicholls State	48-13
W	Hawaii	27-6
L	at Nevada	14-37
W	New Mexico State	45-7
L	at Utah State	21-23
L	at Idaho	34-35
L	Boise State	35-45
L	at LSU	16-24
L	at Fresno State	28-30
W	San Jose State	55-20

2009 RANKINGS

OFFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	29.2	46
Rushing	184.2	29
Passing	188.1	91
Total	372.3	64
DEFENSE	PER GAME	RANK
Scoring	25.8	61
Rushing	162.8	81
Passing	205.5	40
Total	368.3	60
TO MARGIN	PER GAME	RANK
+7	+0.58	19

THE RACE

It didn't take any time at all for Florida and Alabama to stake out their paths to the SEC Championship Game, bulldozing the field and sucking the drama out of the division races.

Florida skated through the SEC East, wrapping up the title on Oct. 31 and winning by a hefty four games, and a week later, Alabama won the West by three games.

But anticlimax of the division races was the Championship Game's gain. Juicy months of buildup led to the colossal rematch of the 2008 league title game. That one, remember, was won by the Gators en route to the national championship. It also served as simmering motivation for the Crimson Tide ... and when given the chance, they chomped back hard.

Alabama quarterback Greg McElroy flexed his muscles and completed 12 of 18 passes for 239 yards, while running back Mark Ingram won over any undecided Heisman voters by rushing for 113 yards and three touchdowns.

Alabama led 19-13 at halftime, then took control in the third quarter. Florida stalled on the opening possession of the second half and punted to the Tide, which marched 88 yards for a touchdown.

In 2008, Florida used a fourth-quarter rally to beat the Tide. Not this time. Alabama held the ball for nearly 40 minutes and rolled up 490 yards against what had been the nation's No. 1 defense. It all left Gators quarterback Tim Tebow in tears at the end.

THE CHAMPION

Nick Saban delivered in his third season. Alabama had been close one season earlier, taking a 12-0 record into the SEC Championship Game, showing that the coach's disciplined approach and defense-first mentality was taking hold.

In 2009, his team started with an unproven quarterback, a rebuilt offensive line and a running back who had been in a time-share the previous season. Well, quarterback Greg McElroy just keeps on winning (29-0 as a starter in high school and college), the offensive line led the way for Mark Ingram to set the school rushing record and win the Heisman ... and the stout defense did the rest.

Alabama was three-yards-and-a-cloud of dust at times, but the Tide could — and did — break things open at opportune times. The closest call came against Tennessee, when Terrence Cody blocked a last-second field goal to preserve a 12-10 win.

The national title game against Texas got tight in the fourth quarter, but Alabama used two late turnovers to secure a 37-21 decision and the school's first national title since 1992.

THE STARS

Offensive Player of the Year: Tim Tebow, QB, Florida

Yes, it was Alabama's Mark Ingram who won the Heisman Trophy, but it was Tebow who goes into the books as the league's Offensive Player of the Year, as selected by the league coaches. The former Mr. Heisman completed 213 of 314 passes for 2,895 yards, with 21 touchdowns and five interceptions, also rushing for 910 yards and 14 scores.

Defensive Player of the Year: Rolando McClain, LB, Alabama

Taking his place among the best Bama linebackers ever, McClain led the nation's second-rated defense with 105 tackles, including 14.5 for loss and four sacks. He was a key part of the shut-down effort against Florida in the SEC title game, recording three quarterback hurries and being assignment-sound against the read-option attack.

Coach of the Year: Nick Saban, Alabama

After sifting through Mike DuBose, Dennis Franchione and Mike Shula — and through a disastrous flirtation with Mike Price — Alabama finally got the right man for the job. Saban's ability to recruit the players, coach up their talent, and inspire the lads resulted in a national championship. And the Tide is primed for more.

THE BOWLS

The SEC placed a record 10 teams into the postseason and for the fourth year in a row won a record-tying six bowl games. And that's now four consecutive victories in the BCS Championship Game (Florida, LSU, Florida and Alabama). What's more, the league is 6-0 since the BCS began crowning champions in the 1998 season.

BCS Championship Game	Alabama 37, Texas 21
Sugar	Florida 51, Cincinnati 24
Cotton	Ole Miss 21, Oklahoma State 7
Capital One	Penn State 19, LSU 17
Outback	Auburn 38, Northwestern 35 (OT)
Chick-fil-A	Virginia Tech 37, Tennessee 14
Music City	Clemson 21, Kentucky 13
PapaJohns.com	UConn 20, South Carolina 7
Liberty	Arkansas 20, East Carolina 17
Independence	Georgia 44, Texas A&M 20

ALL-SEC TEAM

*as selected by the league coaches

OFFENSE - First Team

QB	Tim Tebow	Florida
RB	Mark Ingram	Alabama
RB	Anthony Dixon	Miss. State
WR	A.J. Green	Georgia
WR	Shay Hodge	Ole Miss
TE	Aaron Hernandez	Florida
C	Maurkice Pouncey	Florida
OL	Mike Pouncey	Florida
OL	Mike Johnson	Alabama
OL	Ciron Black	LSU
OL	Mitch Petrus	Arkansas
OL	John Jerry	Ole Miss
RS	Javier Arenas	Alabama
PK	Leigh Tiffin	Alabama

OFFENSE - Second Team

QB	Ryan Mallett	Arkansas
RB	Dexter McCluster	Ole Miss
RB	Montario Hardesty	Tennessee
WR	Brandon LaFell	LSU
WR	Julio Jones	Alabama
TE	D.J. Williams	Arkansas
C	Ben Jones	Georgia
OL	Chris Scott	Tennessee
OL	Derek Sherrod	Miss. State
OL	Lee Ziemba	Auburn
OL	Zipp Duncan	Kentucky
RS	Warren Norman	Vanderbilt
PK	Blair Walsh	Georgia

DEFENSE - First Team

DL	Antonio Coleman	Auburn
DL	Terrence Cody	Alabama
DL	Carlos Dunlap	Florida
DL	Corey Peters	Kentucky
LB	Rolando McClain	Alabama
LB	Eric Norwood	South Carolina
LB	Brandon Spikes	Florida
LB	Rennie Curran	Georgia
DB	Eric Berry	Tennessee
DB	Joe Haden	Florida
DB	Javier Arenas	Alabama
DB	Mark Barron	Alabama
P	Drew Butler	Georgia

DEFENSE - Second Team

DL	Jermaine Cunningham	Florida
DL	Geno Atkins	Georgia
DL	Dan Williams	Tennessee
DL	Justin Houston	Georgia
DL	Cliff Matthews	South Carolina
DL	Malcolm Sheppard	Arkansas
DL	Pernell McPhee	Miss. State
LB	Micah Johnson	Kentucky
LB	Rico McCoy	Tennessee
LB	Chris Marve	Vanderbilt
LB	Ryan Stamper	Florida
DB	Myron Lewis	Vanderbilt
DB	Chad Jones	LSU
DB	Walt McFadden	Auburn
DB	Patrick Peterson	LSU
DB	Trevard Lindley	Kentucky
P	Brett Upson	Vanderbilt

THE STANDINGS

EASTERN

Team	W-L	PCT.	PF	PA	W-L	PCT	PF	PA
Florida	8-0	1.000	221	96	13-1	.929	502	174
Georgia	4-4	.500	234	252	8-5	.615	376	337
Tennessee	4-4	.500	199	175	7-6	.538	381	289
Kentucky	3-5	.375	180	222	7-6	.538	339	295
South Carolina	3-5	.375	144	195	7-6	.538	268	265
Vanderbilt	0-8	.000	71	191	2-10	.167	196	280

WESTERN

Team	W-L	PCT.	PF	PA	W-L	PCT	PF	PA
Alabama	8-0	1.000	208	150	14-0	1.000	449	164
LSU	5-3	.625	178	150	9-4	.692	323	211
Mississippi	4-4	.500	180	176	9-4	.692	384	230
Arkansas	3-5	.375	234	233	8-5	.615	468	326
Auburn	3-5	.375	200	219	8-5	.615	433	358
Mississippi State	3-5	.375	180	235	5-7	.417	307	321



BULLS

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Todd Fitch

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Mark Snyder

STADIUM: Raymond James Stadium: 65,000

AT A GLANCE

2009

8-5, 3-4 Big East (T-4th)

COACH

Skip Holtz, At USF: 1st year;
overall: 72-50, 10 years

RETURNING STARTERS

14; 9 offense, 4 defense, kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH

QB B.J. Daniels, RB Moise Plancher,
WR Dontavia Bogan, WR Sterling Griffin,
C Sampson Genus, DT Terrell McClain,
LB Sabbath Joseph, CB Kayvon Webster

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The offensive line returns seven players who had multiple starts in 2009, including Genus, a second-team All-Big East selection. Daniels is capable of taking over a game offensively with his feet and his arm. Despite the loss of senior A.J. Love to a knee injury, the receiver position has big-play potential.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The Bulls must replace pass rushers George Selvie and Jason Pierre-Paul at the ends, and there was some concern about the secondary in the spring despite the return of four players with starting experience. Will the running game, inconsistent in 2009, step up as hoped? Daniels needs to improve his completion percentage and be more consistent from game to game.

KEY LOSSES

DE Jason Pierre-Paul, DE George Selvie,
LB Kion Wilson, CB Jerome Murphy,
S Nate Allen, WR Carlton Mitchell

OVERVIEW

The Bulls should put points on the board if their ground game improves as expected and their receivers come through. But to compete in the Big East, they need to solve their issues on defense.

After Coaching Upheaval, Bulls Try to Skip Forward

Skip Holtz rescued East Carolina's program and took the Pirates to bowl games in each of the past four seasons, but he faces a demanding challenge as he takes over for Jim Leavitt at USF.

The Bulls grew accustomed to the post-season under Leavitt, who was dismissed in January following charges he had grabbed a player by the neck and slapped him, then lied about the incident during a school investigation.

After five consecutive bowl appearances, the Bulls are looking to get to an upper-tier game and challenge for the Big East's BCS berth.

With the rebuilding Holtz and his staff face on defense, that goal may be a year or two away, but the Bulls do have the potential to make things interesting in 2010 with their offense, where 10 starters return.

Even with a trip to Florida in the second weekend of the season, the schedule once again is heavily back-loaded with key conference affairs against West Virginia, Cincinnati, Rutgers and Pittsburgh, plus a non-conference affair at Miami among the last seven games.

OFFENSE

The unit took a hit when senior A.J. Love (65 receptions in 19 career starts) tore an ACL in the spring game. Given a minimum six-month recovery time, he will miss at least the first half of the season.

The Bulls, however, are not lacking for potential at the position. They return starting receivers Dontavia Bogan (22 catches, four touchdowns) and Sterling Griffin, who had a 73-yard touchdown reception against Florida State. Sophomores Evan Landi and Lindsey Lamar, who moved from running back to wide-

out, are big-play threats who add depth at a key position.

Quarterbacks have led the Bulls in rushing in each of the last four years, and new coordinator Todd Fitch would like to see that change.

Senior Moise Plancher (581 yards rushing in 2009) was granted a sixth year of eligibility for medical reasons and will have to be the answer as the Bulls dismissed veteran Mike Ford, the Offensive MVP of the bowl game, over the winter.

Sophomore Demetris Murray came out of the spring as Plancher's backup after rushing 14 times for 77 yards in 2009.

If they produce behind a veteran line that features five returning starters, that will take the pressure off sophomore quarterback B.J. Daniels to do it all.

Daniels did a remarkable job in stepping in for an injured Matt Grothe last year, leading the Bulls to the win over Florida State in his first start. He ended up rushing for 772 yards and throwing for 1,983, but he needs to improve on his 53.7 completion percentage.

"We all know he's a great athlete and what he can do, but I think he's really starting to do some good things from a mental standpoint," Holtz said.

Senior Sampson Genus is an all-conference candidate at center after earning second-team All-Big East recognition last year. He is flanked by juniors Jeremiah Warren and Chaz Hine at the guard spots and seniors Jamar Bass and Jacob Sims at tackle. They had a combined 52 starts last year.

But the Bulls lost veteran lineman Zach Hermann, who made 26 starts in the past three years. He decided to give up football because of the lingering effects from a neck injury sustained last fall.



B.J. Daniels

DEFENSE

Much work needs to be done on a unit that must replace seven starters.

Seniors David Bedford (three starts, one sack in 2009) and Craig Marshall (four starts, four sacks) will step in for George Selvie and Jason Pierre-Paul at ends. Ryne Giddens, who had two sacks in three games as a true freshman before going out with an ankle injury, was slowed in the spring by a shoulder injury, but he will be ready by fall.

Senior Terrell McClain is a returning starter at tackle, and sophomore Cory Grissom will go into fall camp No. 1 at the other spot. McClain had five tackles for losses among his 25 stops last year, including a sack in the win over Florida State.

Depth could be an issue up front. Backup tackle Leslie Stirrups, who played in

Scouting Report: Offense

2009 stats: 170.9 ypg rushing (3rd in Big East/38th in NCAA), 194.7 passing (6th/85th), 365.6 total offense (5th/71st), 26.5 points per game (5th/64th)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
QB	B.J. Daniels*	So.	A true dual threat at the position.	Ryan Eppes, So.
RB	Moise Plancher*	Sr.	Should blossom with extra year.	Demetris Murray, So.
FB	Richard Kelly	Sr.	Steady blocker who can also play tight end.	Isaac Virgin, Fr.
WR	Sterling Griffin*	So.	Gives the Bulls a big-play guy.	Lindsey Lamar, So.
WR	Dontavia Bogan*	Sr.	The team's leading returning receiver (22 catches).	Evan Landi, So.
TE	Jeff Hawkins	So.	Made his debut in regular-season finale in 2009.	Andrew Ketchel, Sr.
LT	Jamar Bass*	Sr.	Made six starts after arriving from junior college.	Mark Popek, So.
LG	Jeremiah Warren*	Jr.	Started every game after missing 2009 spring drills.	Darren Powe, Jr.
C	Sampson Genus*	Sr.	A second-team All-Big East selection in 2009.	Kevin McCaskill, Jr.
RG	Chaz Hine*	Jr.	Among the most consistent of the O-linemen.	Danous Estenor, Jr.
RT	Jacob Sims*	Sr.	Missed two late games because of injuries.	Damien Edwards, So.
K	Eric Schwartz*	Sr.	Faces big challenge for his job.	Maikon Bonani, So.

*Returning Starter

Scouting Report: Defense

2009 stats: 135.5 ypg rushing (6th in Big East/49th in NCAA), 186.3 passing (1st/25th), 321.8 total defense (3rd/24th), 19.8 points per game (2nd/7-19)

POS	STARTER	YR.	COMMENT	BACKUP/KEY DEPTH
DE	David Bedford	Sr.	Has three starts in last two years.	Ryne Giddens, Fr.
DT	Terrell McClain*	Sr.	A steady, big-play guy up front.	Luke Sager, Fr.
DT	Cory Grissom	So.	Emerged from spring with starting job.	Keith McCaskill, Jr.
DE	Craig Marshall	Sr.	Had four sacks despite missing three games to injury.	Patrick Hampton, Jr.
LB	Jacquian Williams	Sr.	JC transfer considered USF's fastest linebacker ever.	Donte Spires, Sr.
LB	Sam Barrington	So.	Intelligent player who could become USF's best LB.	Mike Lanaris, So.
LB	Sabbath Joseph*	Sr.	Must step up as the defensive leader.	DeDe Lattimore, Fr.
CB	Quenton Washington*	Jr.	Returning starter who needs to rev up his game.	Daniel Bryant, So.
CB	Kayvon Webster*	So.	Had six starts as a freshman.	George Baker, So.
SS	Jon Lejiste	So.	Can make the momentum-changing play.	Jerrell Young, Jr.
FS	Mistral Raymond	Sr.	Former walk-on had a big spring.	JaQuez Jenkins, Fr.
P	Justin Brockhaus-Kann	So.	Still waiting to make his collegiate debut.	Renato Proia, So.

*Returning Starter

nine games last fall after transferring from East Mississippi Community College, was dismissed for a "violation of team rules."

Depth looks good at linebacker. Senior Sabbath Joseph, who had 48 tackles and forced three fumbles in 2009, is a returning starter, and sophomore Sam Barrington and senior Jacquian Williams have one career start each.

By the end of spring, redshirt freshman linebacker DeDe Lattimore was earning praise from defensive coordinator Mark Snyder for his ability to pick up the new defensive scheme, and he will push for playing time. Sophomore Mike Lanaris also is challenging for a starting role.

Junior Quenton Washington is a returning starter at one corner and sophomore Kayvon Webster (six starts as a freshman) is a proven commodity at the

other. Sophomore Daniel Bryant was moved from wide receiver to add depth.

Safety candidates Mistral Raymond, a senior who played safety and nickel back, junior Jerrell Young and sophomore Jon Lejiste all have starting experience, and redshirt freshman JaQuez Jenkins showed in the spring he can play.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Eric Schwartz (11 of 16 on field goals last season) is facing a challenge from Maikon Bonani, who sat out 2009 after injuring his back in a fall. Bonani was 15 of 21 in 2008. Sophomore Justin Brockhaus-Kann is the new punter.

Senior Faron Hornes is back after handling all but three of USF's 19 punt returns last year. Dontavia Bogan averaged more than 21 yards as the primary kick returner.

— Paul Borden

A LOOK BACK

5 Years Ago: 2005

The Georgia Bulldogs won 10 games for the fourth year in a row, and the seniors captured their second SEC championship ... but it wasn't easy. In coach Mark Richt's fifth season, the Dawgs started the season 7-0 and reached No. 3 in the polls, only to drop back-to-back conference games to Florida and Auburn. But not to worry: D.J. Shockley righted the ship in time to win a highly competitive East Division, just as South Carolina was bumping off Florida. All eyes, meantime, were on 10-1 West champion LSU, the No. 3 ranked team ... and a team that Georgia drilled in the SEC title game, 34-14.

SEC champion: Georgia (10-3, 6-2)

SEC MVP: Jay Cutler, QB, Vanderbilt

Heisman Trophy: Reggie Bush, RB, USC (no SEC player in top 10)

National champion: In one of the greatest championship games ever played, Vince Young carried Texas on his back throughout the Rose Bowl and into the end zone in the final minute to upend top-ranked USC, 41-38. The Trojans were striving for their third consecutive national title, but they simply could not stop Young when it counted.



Vince Young

Photo by Richard Mackson/SI/Getty Images

10 Years Ago: 2000

Florida had gone three straight years without winning the SEC — a major slump during the Steve Spurrier era. But even with an unsettled quarterback situation and an inconsistent defense, the Gators had too much going for them — and they won a remarkable game at Tennessee on Jabar Gaffney's controversial last-second touchdown. (Was it a catch? Was it a drop? No matter, it was a TD.) They eventually won the East by two games and proved too quick and talented for Auburn in the SEC title game, 28-6. Despite the "slump" entering the season, it was their fifth SEC title in eight years.

SEC champion: Florida (10-3, 7-1)

SEC MVP: Rudi Johnson, RB, Auburn; John Henderson, DT, Tennessee

Heisman Trophy: Chris Weinke, QB, Florida State (10th — Rudi Johnson, RB, Auburn)

National champion: Oklahoma (13-0) had the nation's best defense and the Heisman runner-up on offense (Josh Heupel), and the Sooners throttled Florida State in the Orange Bowl, 13-2.

15 Years Ago: 1995

Florida had everything going in high gear. The Gators averaged an astounding 44.5 points and 534 yards a game in cruising to their third consecutive SEC championship. This team seemingly had no flaws, with Danny Wuerffel at quarterback and Steve Spurrier calling the shots. It rolled past Arkansas, 34-3, in the SEC title game (after putting up 62 on Tennessee, 49 on Auburn and 52 on Georgia) before running into Nebraska in the national title game, which became known in Gainesville as the Fiasco Bowl.

SEC champion: Florida (12-1, 8-0)

SEC MVP: Danny Wuerffel, QB, Florida

Heisman Trophy: Eddie George, RB, Ohio State (3rd — Danny Wuerffel, QB, Florida; 6th — Peyton Manning, QB, Tennessee)

National champion: Nebraska (13-0) blew away Florida in a stunning Fiesta Bowl, 62-24, in a showdown of undefeated teams ranked No. 1 and 2.

20 Years Ago: 1990

Florida was ineligible for the SEC title, but its new coach would make sure that Gator football was on the rise. Steve Spurrier's first season ended in a 6-1 record (good enough to tie for the league title, but there was that little probationary thing). The one team to beat the Gators, fittingly, was Tennessee, which was tied by Colorado and then Auburn — and then lost to Alabama and then to Notre Dame (sigh). But the 45-3 win over Florida had shown the mettle of the Vols, who were helped by the Gators' wins over contenders Alabama and Auburn.

SEC champion: Tennessee (9-2-2, 6-1)

SEC MVP: Shane Matthews, QB, Florida

Heisman Trophy: Ty Detmer, QB, BYU (no SEC player in top 10)

National champion: Colorado (AP) and Georgia Tech (coaches) shared the title. CU (11-1-1) benefited from the infamous fifth-down play to beat Missouri when game officials lost track of the downs when the Buffs were at the goal line. The coaches couldn't bring themselves to vote the title to CU, so they changed their votes after No. 2 Tech (11-0-1) beat 19th-ranked Nebraska in the Citrus Bowl.

25 Years Ago: 1985

Tennessee captured its first SEC title in 16 years. While Auburn's Bo Jackson was running wild on his way to the Heisman Trophy, Johnny Majors' Vols were well balanced, and simply got better and better. After a so-so 3-1-2 start, they won their last six games by a stunning 190-28 margin. That included a 35-7 Sugar Bowl romp over second-ranked Miami, which enabled UT to reside at No. 4 in the final poll.

SEC champion: Tennessee (9-1-2, 5-1)

SEC MVP: Bo Jackson, RB, Auburn

Heisman Trophy: Bo Jackson, RB, Auburn (no other SEC player in top 10)

National champion: Oklahoma enjoyed No. 8 Tennessee's rout of No. 2 Miami in the Sugar Bowl, because it meant that that third-ranked Sooners could control their own destiny in the Orange — and they drilled top-ranked Penn State, 25-10.



Bo Jackson

Photo by Richard Mackson/SI/Getty Images

50 Years Ago: 1960

Johnny Vaught's Ole Miss Rebels captured a share of the national championship with a star-studded team led by Jake Gibbs (who later shunned the NFL to play for the Yankees). Mississippi was ranked No. 1 or 2 through the first half of the season, but when the Rebels were tied by LSU, 6-6, they slipped in the polls. That meant they had to turn up the heat for their last three games — and they did, rolling to victories by a 104-12 margin. But they were somehow outpolled by 9-1 Minnesota for the Associated Press share of the national championship (back when polls were completed before bowl games).

SEC champion: Mississippi (10-0-1, 5-0-1)

SEC MVP: Jake Gibbs, QB, Mississippi

Heisman Trophy: Joe Bellino, HB, Navy (3rd — Gibbs, 4th — Ed Dye, FB, Auburn)

National champion: While Minnesota won the AP share of the national title, the coaches award went to the Rebels ... and then the bowl games showed that Ole Miss was the best team in the country. While Minnesota was being beaten 17-7 in the Rose Bowl by Washington, Ole Miss was handling Rice in the Sugar Bowl, 14-6.



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